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(54) **Method for surmising functional site in physiologically active polypeptide or polynucleotide.**

(57) A method is provided wherein based only on the amino acid sequence of an objective polypeptide or protein or the nucleotide sequence of an objective polynucleotide, its functional site or region such as catalytically active site or binding site can be surmised and generally be applied to a wide range of polypeptides or proteins or polynucleotides.

(1) Plurality of polypeptides or proteins whose amino acid sequence and a functional site are already known (hereinafter referred to as "reference polypeptides") are selected, (2) the relations between the functional sites and amino acid sequences, common to these polypeptides are extracted, and a law is induced from the relations, and (3) the law is applied to a polypeptide the amino acid sequence of which is known but the functional site or region of which is not known (test polypeptide).

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to a method for surmising a functional site or region of a physiologically active polypeptide, protein or a polynucleotide. If it is possible to surmise, with a high probability, a functional site or region of the physiologically active polypeptide, protein or polynucleotide, it is extremely industrially useful because such an information can give a deep insight when we want to modify a proper position or region of the polypeptide or proteins to construct more useful one with desired functions. This invention is particularly
 10 useful for creating novel and useful polypeptides or proteins or polynucleotides by such a method of M. Ballivet et al. (Literature 10) to modify their functional regions.

Related Art

15 Although various methods have been proposed to surmise the functional site or region of a physiologically active polypeptide or protein (Literatures 1 to 8 and 11 to 12), a method has not been known which can surmise the functional site or region of an objective polypeptide or protein using the information on the amino acid sequence thereof alone and which can generally be applied to every polypeptide or protein existing in nature. Namely, it is extremely difficult to surmise the catalytically active site of enzymes or the binding region of recep-
 20 tors or lymphokines or the like except such a method based on homologous sequences (homology) (Literatures 5 and 12). Further, since in proteins there are generally many functional sites or regions involved in the molecular recognition and response in regions other than homologous sequences (homology), it is difficult to find them solely by the homologous sequences (homology).

25 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention aims at providing a method that can surmise the functional site or region of an objective polypeptide or protein or polynucleotide based on the amino acid sequence or nucleotide sequence alone, and moreover can generally be applied to a wide range of polypeptides or proteins or polynucleotides.

30 The above problem is solved by the method of this invention which comprises (1) selecting plural polypeptides or proteins (hereinafter referred to as "reference polypeptides") whose amino acid sequence and active sites have been already confirmed, (2) extracting the relations between the active sites and the amino acid sequences, common to these reference polypeptides, and deriving a law from the relations, and (3) applying the law to a polypeptide (hereinafter referred to as "test polypeptide") whose amino acid sequence is known
 35 but whose the functional site or region is not known.

This method can also be used for surmising the functional site or region of a polynucleotide such as the ribozyme which we called.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

40 Fig. 1 denotes a surmised pattern of the functional region of bovine pancreas ribonuclease.
 Fig. 2 denotes a surmised pattern of the functional region of canine pancreas cationic trypsinogen.
 Fig. 3 denotes a surmised pattern of the functional region of rat preprocarboxypeptidase A.
 Fig. 4 denotes a surmised pattern of the functional region of human carbonic anhydrase I.
 45 Fig. 5 denotes a surmised pattern of the functional region of human Cu/Zn superoxide dismutase.
 Fig. 6 denotes a surmised pattern of the functional region of chicken triosephosphate isomerase.
 Fig. 7 denotes a surmised pattern of the functional region of human type I alcohol dehydrogenase.
 Fig. 8 denotes a surmised pattern of the functional region of *Escherichia coli* glutathione reductase.
 Fig. 9 denotes a surmised pattern of the functional region of rat liver catalase.
 50 Fig. 10 denotes a surmised pattern of the functional region of bovine lysozyme C.
 Fig. 11 denotes a surmised pattern of the functional region of Kiwi fruit actinidine.
 Fig. 12 denotes a surmised pattern of the functional region of human glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydro-
 55 Fig. 13 denotes a surmised pattern of the functional region of bovine pancreas phospholipase A2.
 Fig. 14 denotes a surmised pattern of the functional region of *B. st. arothermophilus* thermolysin.
 Fig. 15 denotes a surmised pattern of the catalytically functional region of tobacco ring spot virus (TRSV).
 Where sum means the probabilities of the functional site such as the catalytically active site or binding site of proteins.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Physiologically active polypeptides or proteins in this invention include all peptide substances having some physiological activity, and comprehensive substances such as enzymes, hormones and various interleukins are included. An functional site means a site consisting of one or a small number of amino acids required for these physiologically active polypeptides to express their functions, and for example, in enzymes their catal-
5 lytical active site is meant and in other polypeptides the binding site is meant. Further, an functional region means a region which is involved in the expression of the physiological activities of a physiologically active polypeptide and has some extent.

10 This invention is specifically described below.

The "reference polypeptide" in the invention can be any polypeptide whose amino acid sequence and the functional sites are known. The number thereof is not particularly critical and it is thought that the higher the number, the more accurately a method for surmising the functional site can be, and about 10 reference polypep-
15 tides more are sufficient. In the specific examples of the invention, 17 enzymes shown in Table 1 (Literature 7) were used.

Table 1

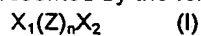
5	No.	Enzyme name	Length of the amino acid sequence	Active site	ID name of PDB
10	1	Ribonuclease	124	12, 41 [*] , 119	1RN3
	2	Trypsinogen	223	40, 84, 117	2PTN
	3	Carboxypeptidase A	307	127, 248 [*] , 270	5CPA
15	4	Carbonic anhydrase I	260	106, 199	2CAB
	5	L-lactate dehydrogenase	329	99, 169, 193	4LDH
20	6	Superoxide dismutase	151	61, 141	2SOD
	7	Penicillopepsin	323	33, 213	2APP
25	8	Triosephosphate isomerase	247	164	1TIM
	9	Alcohol dehydrogenase	374	48, 51	4ADH
30	10	Glutathione reductase	478	58, 63, 467	2GRS
	11	Rhodanese	293	186, 247, 249	1RHD
	12	Catalase	506	74, 147	8CAT
35	13	Lysozyme C	130	35, 53	1LZI
	14	Actinidine	220	25, 162	2ACT
40	15	Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase	333	148, 175	1GPD
	16	Prophospholipase A2	130	55, 106 [*]	2BPZ
45	17	Thermolysin	316	143, 231	3TLN

The position * was quoted from BION/swiss-prot database.

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Then, in the amino acid sequence of reference polypeptides selected in the above way, a region (supposed functional region) surrounded by plural amino acids upstream and downstream from the position of a catalytical active site is extracted. The number of amino acids in the supposed function region are not particularly limited, and for example, about 15 is sufficient.

Then, amino acid sequence patterns represented by the following formula (I):



are supposed using 20 amino acids existing in natural proteins. This amino acid sequence pattern is referred to as "supposed amino acid sequence pattern" in the invention. In the formula (I), X_1 and X_2 are the same or different, and specific amino acids selected from the 20 amino acids.

In this case, although it is desirable to use as amino acids all of the 20 amino acids usually existing in proteins, namely glycine (Gly; G), alanine (Ala; A), valine (Val; V), leucine (Leu; L), isoleucine (Ile; I), Serine (Ser; S), threonine (Thr; T), aspartic acid (Asp; D), glutamic acid (Glu; E), asparagine (Asn; N), glutamine (Glu; Q), lysine (Lys; K), arginine (Arg; R), cysteine (Lys; C), methionine (Met; M), phenylalanine (Phe; F), tyrosine (Tyr; Y), tryptophan (Trp; W), histidine (His; H) and proline (Pro; P), it is possible to omit a small number of amino acids whose occurring frequencies in natural proteins is very low and which do not have a significant influence on the method of the invention.

Z_n are the same or different, and mean any unspecified amino acids in the above amino acids. n is 0 or an integer of 1 to above 30. Although the upper limit of n is not particularly critical, 30 is sufficient. The amino acid X_1 is referred to as "reference amino acid" for the sake of descriptive convenience.

Then, plural or all amino acid sequence patterns satisfying the requisite of the formula (I) are supposed. For example, when it is supposed that X_1 and X_2 are selected from 20 amino acids and the number of n , i.e., the number of an unspecified amino acid Z , moves from 0 to 30, the amino acid sequence patterns of $20 \times 20 \times 31 = 12,400$ can be obtained.

In the above, however, the upper limit of n is not necessarily 30, and for example, when the upper limit of n is 2, namely n is 0, 1 or 2, the number of the supposed amino acid sequence patterns becomes $20 \times 20 \times 3 = 1,200$. Thus, sequence patterns such as, for example, Gly Gly, Gly Ala, Gly Val, ... ($n = 0$); Gly Z Gly, Lys Z Ala, Gly Z Val, ... ($n = 1$); and Gly Z Z Gly, Gly Z Z Ala, Gly Z Z Val, ... ($n = 2$) are constructed. In the above Z may be any of the unspecified 20 amino acids.

Then, the reference amino acid sequences is scanned by each of these specified amino acid sequence pattern while the latter is moved along with the former. The sum of the frequency such that the X_1 and X_2 of the supposed amino acid sequence pattern agree with the amino acids at the positions corresponding thereto in the reference amino acid sequences is determined. The supposed amino acid sequence patterns in both the "supposed functional regions" and the region other than the functional regions (this is referred to as "supposed non-functional region") in the reference amino acid sequences are divided.

This operation is carried out on, for example, 10 or more of reference amino acid sequences. Although the total number of the supposed amino acid sequence patterns used in this operation is not particularly restricted, $20 \times 20 \times 13$ or more (i.e., $n \geq 12$) is desirable.

The above operation, to our surprise, gave present inventors a fact that the used supposed amino acid sequence patterns could be classified into ones specifically according with or favoring for the supposed functional regions of the reference amino acid sequences, and the others specifically according with or favoring for the supposed non-functional regions thereof (incidentally, there were also a small number of supposed amino acid sequence patterns not specific for both regions).

When, as a typical example, supposed amino acid sequence patterns with the occurring frequencies more than 20 times were selected from the amino acid sequences of the 17 reference polypeptides under the conditions of $20 \times 20 \times 13$ supposed amino acid sequence patterns ($n = 0$ to 12), supposed amino acid sequence patterns whose reference amino acid X_1 is Cys, His, Arg, Ala, Gly, Ser, Thr or Asn were favored for the supposed functional regions, and on the other hand, specified amino acid sequence patterns whose reference amino acid X_1 is Asp, Glu, Phe, Lys, Leu, Pro or Tyr were favored for the supposed non-functional regions.

Some of supposed amino acid sequence patterns corresponding to reference amino acids X_1 could not be classified into either a region by the above classification criterion, because of a low occurring frequency of the same amino acid.

Then, with respect to the supposed amino acid sequence patterns classified into any of the supposed functional regions and the supposed non-functional regions, the supposed amino acid sequence patterns having the same specified reference amino acid X_1 are individually collected in each region, and then superposed the reference amino acid to align one amino acid sequence pattern. These are particularly related to either the supposed functional regions or the supposed non-functional regions. Therefore, these are referred to as "related amino acid sequence pattern".

By this operation, the following "related amino acid sequence patterns" were obtained in the above specific examples of the invention. Namely, as functional region-related amino acid sequence patterns:

1. Cys (Gly/Ser) Ala Z Gly Z (Gly/Ala) (SEQ ID:1)
2. His Z Z Ser (Gly/Ser) Z Gly Z Gly Z Gly
(SEQ ID:2)
- 5 3. Arg Ser Z Z Z Ala Z Ser Z Z (Gly/Ala/Ser)
(SEQ ID:3)
4. Ala Z Ser Z Z Z Z Gly Z Z Gly Z Ala Z
10 (SEQ ID:4)
5. Gly (Gly/Ser) Z Z Z Ser Gly Ala Ser Gly
(Ala/Gly) Gly (Gly/Ser) (SEQ ID:5)
- 15 6. Ser (Gly/Ser) Ala Ser Z Gly Ser Z Gly Z Ser Z
Gly (SEQ ID:6)
7. Thr (Gly/Ala) Ala Z Ala (Ala/Ser) Z Ala
(Ala/Ser) (Gly/Ser) (SEQ ID:7)
- 20 8. Asn Z Z Ser (Gly/Ala) Ala Z (Ser/Ala) Gly
(Ser/Ala) Z Z Ser (SEQ ID:8)

As non-functional region-related amino acid sequence patterns

- 25 9. Asp Pro (Leu/Lys) Z Leu Z Z Val Lys Leu Leu
Leu (Gly/Lys) (SEQ ID:9)
10. Glu Z Z Z Z Lys Z Leu Leu (Asp/Leu) (Gly/Asp)
30 Z (Gly/Lys) (SEQ ID:10)
11. Phe (Gly/Leu) Asp Asp (Gly/Val) Z (Val/Asp)
Val Z Z (Gly/Leu) Val Gly Asp (SEQ ID:11)
- 35 12. Lys Leu (Asp/Lys) Z Z Gly Leu Gly (Asp/Lys)
(Val/Leu) Gly Leu Asp Leu (SEQ ID:12)
13. Leu Lys Asp Z (Gly/Asp) Z Z Z Leu (Asp/Lys)
(Asp/Val) (Asp/Lys) (Val/Leu) (Lys/Val)
40 (SEQ ID:13)
14. Pro Asp Lys Gly Z Z Z Z (Val/Gly) (Gly/Lys)
Lys Val (Gly/Lys) Leu (SEQ ID:14)
- 45 15. Tyr Val Z Leu (Val/Leu) Val Z Z Leu Z Asp
(SEQ ID:15)

50 In the above related amino acid sequence patterns, the underlined amino acids are reference amino acids X_1 .

Either amino acid deviced by the slash in the parentheses represents one of X_2 . For example His can pair with Gly or Ser in (SEQ ID:2), namely His ZZZ Gly or His ZZZ Ser.

Then, it is necessary to prepare a "discrimination criterion" in order to surmis , utilizing th "related amino acid sequence patterns", the active sit s of a polypeptide (test polypeptide) whose amino acid sequence is known but whose activ sites are not known.

This discrimination criterion is induced by applying, to a reference amino acid s quence whose active site is already known, the above "related amino acid sequence patterns", namely the functional region-relat d amino acid sequenc patterns or non-functional region-related amino acid sequence patterns, or both of them.

As a result, a condition by which the active site in the reference amino acid sequence is most certainly related to the related amino acid sequence can be induced.

For example, based on the related amino acid sequence patterns specific for the supposed functional region, is prepared a symmetrically related amino acid sequence pattern situated the reference amino acid at the center (this is referred to as a "symmetrically related amino acid sequence pattern"). For example, when the related amino acid sequence pattern (1) is

Cys (Gly/Ser) Ala Z Gly Z (Gly/Ala),
(SEQ ID:16),

its symmetrical related amino acid sequence pattern is

(Gly/Ala) Z Gly Z Ala (Gly/Ser) Cys (Gly/Ser)
Ala Z Gly Z (Gly/Ala) (SEQ ID:17).

Such a "symmetrically related amino acid sequence pattern" can be prepared from each related amino acid sequence pattern.

Then, this "symmetrically related amino acid sequence pattern" moved from N-terminal to C-terminal of the reference amino acid sequence to count the sum of number of amino acid overlapped completely. For example, in the range respectively of 5 to 10 amino acids upstream and downstream of the reference amino acid, the number of "the same amino acids", which are amino acids other than the reference amino acid, can be counted by the comparison of the "symmetrically related amino acid sequence pattern" with the reference amino acid sequence.

This operation is carried out on each symmetrically related amino acid sequence pattern. For specification of the active site in the reference sequence, the requisite of "the number of the same amino acids" and "the number of symmetrically related amino acid sequence patterns" are determined.

For example, in a typical example of the invention, the above requisites were determined as follows.

The first requisite:

A site or region is that, in the range of 10 amino acids in both upstream and downstream of the reference amino acid, "the number of the same amino acids" on "symmetrically related amino acid sequence patterns" whose reference amino acids are Cys, His, Arg, Ala, Gly, Ser, Thr and Asn are more than 2, 2, 2, 2, 4, 3, 3 and 3 respectively, and that the number of "symmetrically related amino acid sequence patterns" satisfying the requisite is 3 or more;

The second requisite:

A site or region is that in the range of 10 amino acids in both upstream and downstream of the reference amino acid, "the number of the same amino acids" on "symmetrically related amino acid sequence patterns" whose reference amino acids are Cys, His, Arg, Ala, Gly, Ser, Thr and Asn are 2, 2, 2, 2, 4, 3, 3 and 3 respectively, and that the number of "symmetrically related amino acid sequence patterns" satisfying the requisite is 2 or more, and that in the ranges of 5 amino acids in both upstream and downstream of the reference amino acid, "the number of the same amino acids" of "symmetrically related amino acid sequence patterns" containing Cys as the reference amino acid is 3 or more, or two more Cysteines exist in the above range.

The third requisite:

A site or region is that in the range of 10 amino acids in both upstream and downstream of the reference amino acid, "the number of the same amino acids" on "symmetrically related amino acid sequence patterns" whose reference amino acids are Cys, His, Arg, Ala, Gly, Ser, Thr and Asn are 2, 2, 2, 2, 4, 3, 3 and 3 respectively, and that the number of "symmetrically related amino acid sequence patterns" is 2 or more, and that in the range of 5 amino acids in both upstream and downstream of the reference amino acid, none of "the number of the same amino acids" on "symmetrically related amino acid sequence patterns" whose reference amino acids are Asp, Glu, Phe, Lys, Leu, Pro and Tyr are composed of 2, 2, 3, 4, 3, 3 and 2 respectively.

The fourth requisite:

A site or region is that in the range of 10 amino acids in both upstream and downstream of the reference amino acid, "the number of same amino acids" of the "symmetrically related amino acid sequence patterns" whose reference amino acids are Cys, His, Arg, Ala, Gly, Ser, Thr and Asn, is not 0, and that such patterns emerge in a number of 3 or more in a row;

The fifth requisite:

A site or region is that in the range of 10 amino acids in both upstream and downstream of the reference amino acid, "the number of the same amino acids" of the "symmetrically related amino acid sequence patterns" whose reference amino acids are Cys, His, Arg, Ala, Gly, Ser, Thr and Asn respectively, is not 0, and "the number of the same amino acids" of the "symmetrically related amino acid sequence patterns" whose reference amino acids are Asp, Glu, Phe, Lys, Leu, Pro and Tyr respectively, is not 0, and that such patterns emerge in a number of 5 or more in a row;

The sixth requisite:

A site or region is that in the range of 10 amino acids in both upstream and downstream of the reference amino acid, "the number of the same amino acids" of the "symmetrical related amino acid sequence patterns" whose reference amino acids are Asp, Glu, Phe, Lys, Leu, Pro and Tyr, is 0, and that such patterns concentrate on these amino acids.

In order to surmise an active site in the test polypeptide, first, the "symmetrically related amino acid sequence patterns" is superposed on the amino acid sequence of the test polypeptide, and that in the range of 5 to 10 amino acids in both upstream and downstream of the reference amino acid, "the number of the same amino acids", which are amino acids other than the reference amino acid, are counted.

By applying the above first requisite to this result, a functional site or region in the amino acid sequence of the test polypeptide is surmised. Consequently, when a region of a reasonably narrow range can not be specified, the second condition can be then applied. If necessary, the third condition, the fourth condition, etc. can be applied in this order, and the above operation can be repeated until an action region of a reasonably narrow range can be surmised.

Incidentally, the above "related amino acid sequence patterns" are classified into ones related to the functional region and the others related to the non-functional region, and the amino acid X_1 and the amino acid X_2 are extracted on both regions to obtain the following results.

Supposed functional region-related patterns
 X_1 ... Ala, Cys, Gly, His, Asn, Arg, Ser, Thr
 X_2 ... Gly, Ala, Ser
 Supposed non-functional region-related patterns
 X_1 ... Asp, Glu, Phe, Lys, Leu, Pro, Tyr
 X_2 ... Leu, Lys, Gly, Asp, Val

The inventors investigated the relation between the above X_1 and X_2 from a view of new point. For example, when Ala (alanine) of X_2 of the functional region-related patterns is directed to, one of the codons (Although a codon usually means one having as a unit a sequence consisting of three of four kinds of bases composing a mRNA, this is conveniently applied to DNA in this specification. This is also the case with "sense" and "antisense".) is "GCT".

The antisense against this codon is "CGA", and when this antisense is read in the direction of $5' \rightarrow 3'$, "AGC" is obtained whereby Ser (serine) is coded. Further, when "GCT", a codon of Ala is read in the reverse direction ($3' \rightarrow 5'$), "TCG" is obtained whereby Ser (serine) is encoded, and when the antisense "CGA" is read in the reverse direction ($3' \rightarrow 5'$), a codon encoding Arg (arginine) is obtained. All these amino acids (Ser and Arg) exist in the amino acids of X_1 of the functional region-related patterns.

Similar relations exist on Ser of X_2 of the functional region-related patterns, too. Therefore, it is surmised that with respect to the amino acids of X_1 and the amino acids of X_2 , codons encoding them closely correspond to antisense. Consequently, by utilizing this relation, it is possible to efficiently surmise an active site in the test polypeptide.

Therefore, the second method for surmising an functional site or region in the amino acid sequence of a test polypeptide uses the above finding.

For this purpose, at first, an amino acid sequence pattern represented by the following formula (II):

$$X_1' (Z)_m X_2' \quad (II)$$

is supposed. This amino acid sequence pattern is referred to as a secondary amino acid sequence pattern for the sake of convenience. In the above formula (II), X_1' and X_2' are specific amino acids selected from 20 amino acids naturally existing in proteins, and X_1' and X_2' are related to the above through their sense and antisense.

In this sense, the above restriction requisite is essentially, different from supposed amino acid sequences denoted by $X_1 (Z)_n X_2$ [i.e., formula (I)]. Z_s are the same or different unspecific amino acids, and m is 0 or an integer of 1 to about 30. However, since X_1' and X_2' are related as above, it is sufficient to use m of 0 or 1, i.e., $X_1' X_2'$ and $X_1' Z X_2'$.

Then these secondary amino acid sequence patterns are applied to the reference amino acid sequences, multivariate analysis is carried out to lead to a discriminant function capable of discriminating an active site or region from other.

Then, the thus obtained discriminant function can be applied to the amino acid sequence of the test polypeptide to surmise an active site or region in the amino acid sequence.

As the first specific example of the invention, repetitive sequence patterns extracted from 160 kinds of secondary amino acid sequence patterns coming under the formulae $X_1' X_2'$ and $X_1' Z X_2'$ (Z is selected from 20 kinds of amino acids), and other 102 kinds of patterns (the related amino acid sequence patterns, doublet sequence patterns, in consideration of a substitution frequency constant, etc.) were prepared, and these were applied to the above 17 kinds of the reference amino acid sequences to derive a discriminant function for surmising an active site or region.

In this connection, when this discriminant function was applied to the above reference amino acid sequences whose active site was known, it was possible to distinguish active from non-active regions by a discrimination percentage of 84%. Preferential amino acid sequence patterns used in the discriminant function are shown below.

Namely, they are 1. Ala Z Cys 2. Gly Ser
3. Val Z His 4. Val His 5. Arg Pro 6. Thr Z Arg
7. Val Tyr 8. Leu Asn 9. Gly Thr 10. Gly Z Ser
11. Ala Arg 12. Ser Arg 13. Ser Ser 14. Leu Z Gln
15. $Z_1 Z_2 \geq 1.8$ 16. Leu Z Asp 17. Val Gln 18. Met Z Tyr
19. Met Tyr 20. Ile Z Asp 21. Ile Asn 22. Thr Arg
23. $ab (X)_n ba$, etc.

(wherein Z is any of the unspecified 20 kinds of amino acids. Further, Z_1 and Z_2 are amino acid sequences sequenced in tandem in the amino acid sequences, and means a combination such that the total of their substitution frequency values is 1.8 or more. The substitution frequency value was based on Literature 9. n is an integer of 0 to 30, and a and b are any of the 20 kinds of amino acids.)

In order to verify the effectiveness of the method of the invention established as above, the method of the invention was applied to many polypeptides whose amino acid sequence and an active site were known (polypeptide other than the above reference polypeptides), and the resulting results were compared with the actual active sites identified. The results are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 shows the results obtained on many enzymes, and therein, "hit rate" represent the ratio of the numbers of actual but position and the number of position surmised by the method of the invention, and "recovery rate" represents the ratio of the number of actually recovered active sites and the number of whole active sites existing in enzymes. Table 3 shows the results of the surmised efficiency in the case of active region (i.e., binding region) of proteins other than enzymes.

Table 2

5	Various enzymes	Number of enzyme	Number of amino acid	Hit rate	Recovery rate
10	1) Hydrolase				
	Serine protease	9	3600	17/38	17/27
15	Serine esterase	4	2027	2/14	2/6
	Aspartyl protease	6	2311	8/14	8/12
	Metalloprotease	5	2782	1/21	1/6
20	Thiolprotease	5	1986	6/12	6/10
	Glycosidase	5	3051	1/22	1/6
	Carboxypeptidase	4	2073	4/13	4/7
25	Nuclease	2	445	1/2	1/5
	Others	6	2524	4/20	4/6
30	2) Lyase	4	1749	5/18	5/5
	3) Transferase	6	2463	5/17	5/8
	4) Oxidoreductase	5	2247	5/13	5/8
35	5) Isomerase	3	1845	2/14	2/5
	6) Other	4	1606	2/13	2/5
40	7) Inhibiting substance	2	817	2/4	2/2
		70	31526	65/245	65/118
				27%	55%
45					
50					
55					

Table 3

	Physiologically active polypeptide	Number of amino acid	Hit rate	Recovery rate
5	1 PAI-1	402	1/2	1/1
10	2 Angiotensinogen	484	1/3	1/1
	3 CD4	458	1/5	1/1
15	4 HIV envelope gp120	856	0/4	0/1
	5 Poliovirus capsid	881	1/5	1/1
	6 Acetylcholine receptor	461	2/4	2/2
20	7 Interleukin 2	153	1/1	2/5
	8 Insulin receptor	1382	2/10	2/3
25	9 Insulin	110	2/2	2/2
	10 Calcitonin			
	(human)	141	1/1	1/1
30	(salmon I)	136	1/1	1/1
	11 TNF- α	233	1/3	1/1
35		5697	14/41	15/20
			34%	75%

As is apparent from Table 2 and 3, according to the method of the invention, 27% of the catalytically active sites actually existing in the enzymes were hit, and in other physiologically active peptides, 34% of the actually reported binding sites were hit.

The above method can be applied to every physiologically active polypeptide whose amino acid sequence is known, and further, when the nucleic acid sequence to encode the amino acid sequence is known, it is also possible to search the amino acid sequence supposed when its sense sequence is read in the reverse direction of 3' \rightarrow 5', and still further, it is also possible to surmise the active site or region by searching the amino acid sequence supposed when the antisense sequence against the code sequence is progressively read in the direction of 5' \rightarrow 3', or the amino acid sequence supposed when the antisense is read in the reverse direction of 3' \rightarrow 5'.

In order to verify this point, out of 17 kinds of enzymes, the active site of 14 kinds of enzymes whose base sequence was entered in BION/genbank database (in this connection, on the enzymes from different species, their active sites were identified based on comparison with homologous sequence (Table 1)) was surmised under the conditions of investigating the amino acid sequences read in the direction of 5' \rightarrow 3' (N; sense, 5' \rightarrow 3'), 3' \rightarrow 5' (C; antisense, 3' \rightarrow 5'), 5' \rightarrow 3' (IC; antisense, 5' \rightarrow 3'), and 3' \rightarrow 5' (R; sense, 3' \rightarrow 5'). The results are shown in the following Table 4 to Table 6.

Table 4

	N (sense 5' → 3')	C (antisense 3' → 5')	IC (antisense 5' → 3')	R (sense 3' → 5')
1. Ribonuclease (bovine) (active site: 38,67,125)	53,116	80	51	23,73
2. Trypsinogen (canine) (active site: 63,107,200)	59,119,212	54,123,234	49,118,187	50,122,199
3. Carboxypeptidase A (rat) (active site: 273,358,380)	15,179,226, 365,396	27,84,168,231, 381	25,70,172,217, 271,349,404	22,179,271,328, 395
4. Carbonic anhydrase I (human) (active site: 107,200)	119,196	18,21,70,117, 173	43,93,186,248	251
6. Superoxide dismutase (human) (active site: 64,144)	63,125	115	55,122	81

Table 5

	N (sense 5' → 3')	C (antisense 3' → 5')	IC (antisense 5' → 3')	R (sense 3' → 5')
8. Triosephosphate isomerase (chicken) (active site: 165)	35,109,179	106,220	10,86,173	42,53,84,182
9. Alcohol dehydrogenase (human) (active site: 49,52)	51,125,207, 304	169,241,300	14,52,135,216, 290,333	119,202,327
10. Glutathione reductase (Escherichia coli) (active site: 42,47,439)	12,169,260, 371,441	12,130,370, 440	17,69,166,207, 306,412	18,57,165,205, 289,350,436
12. Catalase (rat) (active site: 75,148)	79,132,415	139,351,441	21,154,201	47,165,220,299
13. Lysozyme C (bovine) (active site: 53,71)	64,124	42,94	41,133	16,127

Table 6

	N (sense 5' → 3')	C (antisense 3' → 5')	IC (antisense 5' → 3')	R (sense 3' → 5')
14. Actinidine (kiwi fruit) (active site: 25,162)	25,165	97	17,143,198	19,146,192
15. Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase (human) (active site: 142,179)	153,291	144,266	44,115,154	43,103,223,296
16. Phospholipase A2 (bovine) (active site: 70,121)	21,62,118	16,112	29	13,131
17. Thermolysin (bacterium) (active site: 379,467)	132,251,378, 462	16,116,264, 374,463,530	58,110,185, 254,317,397, 457,496	25,112,276, 375,446,496

As mentioned above, it is possible to surmise, even when the above amino acid sequences other than the natural amino acid sequences were used, the active sites with considerable frequency. Further, it is readily thought that, by a combination of these four methods, it is possible to surmise the active sites or regions with a greater efficiency.

In order to further make the surmise method of the invention more precise, the methods described above were repeated to obtain the following "related amino acid sequence patterns".

Namely, as "supposed functional region-related amino acid sequence patterns":

1. Cys (Gly/Ser) Ala Z (Gly/Arg) Z (Gly/Ala)
(SEQ ID:18)
2. His Z Z Ser (Gly/Ser) Z Gly Z Gly Z Gly
(SEQ ID:19)
3. Arg Ser Z Z Cys Ala Z Ser Z Z (Gly/Ala/Ser)
(Ser/Val) (SEQ ID:20)
4. Ala Thr (Ser/Thr/Val/Cys) Z (Thr/Leu/Asn)
(Thr/Asn) Cys (Gly/Thr/Asn) (Thr/Glu)
(Ile/Asn) (Gly/Arg) (Glu/Gln) Ala
(SEQ ID:21)
5. Gly (Gly/Ser/Thr) Gln Tyr (Asn/His/Cys)
(Ser/Pro/Phe) (Gly/His/Cys) Ala
(Ser/Ile/Asn) (Gly/Thr) (Ala/Val/Gly/Arg/
His/Tyr) Gly (Gly/Ser) Val (SEQ ID:22)
6. Ser (Gly/Lys/Glu/Cys/Ser/Arg) Ala (Ser/Leu/
Asn/His) (Gln/Val/His/Phe) (Gly/Thr/Val)
(Lys/Ser/Tyr) (Asn/Gln/Arg) (Gly/Thr)
(Asn/Ile/Glu) (Gln/Ile/Ser/Arg) Arg
(Asn/Gly) (Ile/Glu) (SEQ ID:23)
7. Thr (Gly/Ala) (Ala/Ile) Thr (Ala/Val/Leu)
(Ala/Ser/Leu) (Asp/Pro/Glu) (Ala/Thr/Leu)
(Ala/Ser/Phe) (Gly/Ser/Val) (Asp/Leu/Val)
(Asp/Lys/Ile) (Val/Leu) (SEQ ID:24)
8. Asn (Thr/Leu) Leu (Val/Ser) (Gly/Ala) Ala

(Lys/Ile) (Ser/Ala/Lys) Gly (Ser/Asp/Ala)
Z Z (Ser/Lys) (SEQ ID:25)

As "non-functional region-related amino acid sequence patterns":

9. Asp Pro (Ala/Leu/Lys) (Ile/Phe) Leu Ala Phe
Val Lys (Leu/Glu) (Ser/Leu/Glu) (Gly/Leu)
Lys Phe (SEQ ID:26)
10. Glu Z Ile Z Z (Lys/Phe/Ser) Z (Pro/Leu) Leu
(Asp/Leu/Ile) (Gly/Asp) (Ser/Ile)
(Gly/Lys/Phe) (SEQ ID:27)
11. Phe (Gly/Leu) (Asp/Ser) (Ile/Asp) (Gly/Val)
(Ser/Glu) (Val/Asp) Val Ala Z (Gly/Leu)
(Val/Ser/Thr) (Gly/Glu) Asp (SEQ ID:28)
12. Lys Leu (Asp/Asn/Pro/Lys/Thr) Z Z
(Gly/Glu/Ser) (Leu/Ile) (Gly/Thr)
(Asp/Lys/Thr) (Val/Leu/Pro/Asn) (Gly/Pro)
Leu (Ser/Pro/Asp/Glu/Ile) Leu (SEQ ID:29)
13. Leu (Lys/Phe) (Asp/Gln) (Ile/Tyr)
(Gly/Asp/Tyr) (Arg/Asn) Glu (Glu/Leu/Tyr)
(Asp/Lys/Glu/Ile) (Asp/Lys/Glu/Ile)
(Asp/Ala/Val/Phe) (Asp/Lys) (Val/Leu)
(Pro/Lys/Val) (SEQ ID:30)
14. Pro (Asp/Ala/Ile) Lys Gly Z Thr (Ala/Asn) Ala
(Val/Gly) (Gly/Ser/Lys) Lys Val (Gly/Ala/
Lys/Ile) (Leu/Ala) (SEQ ID:31)
15. Tyr Val Z Leu (Asn/Val/Leu) (Ser/Asn/Val) Z
Asn Leu Thr Asp (SEQ ID:32)

In the above related amino acid sequence patterns, the underlined amino acids are the reference amino acids X₁. The percentage of amino acids other than these reference amino acids was calculated, and amino acids having a high degree of frequency of contributing to each related amino acid sequence pattern, were extracted and simplified.

Thus, the following functional region-related amino acid sequence patterns were obtained:

1-1. Cys (Gly/Ser) Ala Z Gly Z (Gly/Ala)

- (SEQ ID:33)
- 2-1. His Z Z Ser (Gly/Ser) Z Gly Z Gly Z Gly
(SEQ ID:34)
- 5 3-1. Arg Ser Z Z Z Ala Z Ser Z Z (Gly/Ala/Ser)
(SEQ ID:35)
- 4-1. Ala Z Ser Z Z Z Z Gly Z Z Gly Z Ala Z
10 (SEQ ID:36)
- 5-1. Gly (Gly/Ser) Z Z Z Ser Gly Ala Ser Gly
(Ala/Gly) Gly (Gly/Ser) (SEQ ID:37)
- 15 6-1. Ser (Gly/Ser) Ala Ser Z Gly Ser Z Gly Z Ser Z
Gly (SEQ ID:38)
- 7-1. Thr (Gly/Ala) Ala Z Ala (Ala/Ser) Z Ala
(Ala/Ser) (Gly/Ser) (SEQ ID:39)
- 20 8-1. Asn Z Z Ser (Gly/Ala) Ala Z (Ser/Ala) Gly
(Ser/Ala) Z Z Ser (SEQ ID:40)

and as non-functional region-related amino acid sequence patterns:

- 25 9-1. Asp Pro (Leu/Lys) Z Leu Z Z Val Lys Leu Leu
Leu (Gly/Lys) (SEQ ID:41)
- 30 10-1. Glu Z Z Z Z Lys Z Leu Leu (Asp/Leu) (Gly/Asp)
Z (Gly/Lys) (SEQ ID:42)
- 11-1. Phe (Gly/Leu) Asp Asp (Gly/Val) Z (Val/Asp)
Val Z Z (Gly/Leu) Val Gly Asp (SEQ ID:43)
- 35 12-1. Lys Leu (Asp/Lys) Z Z Gly Leu Gly (Asp/Lys)
(Val/Leu) Gly Leu Asp Leu (SEQ ID:44)
- 13-1. Leu Lys Asp Z (Gly/Asp) Z Z Z Leu (Asp/Lys)
(Asp/Val) (Asp/Lys) (Val/Leu) (Lys/Val)
40 (SEQ ID:45)
- 14-1. Pro Asp Lys Gly Z Z Z Z (Val/Gly) (Gly/Lys)
Lys Val (Gly/Lys) Leu (SEQ ID:46)
- 45 15-1. Tyr Val Z Leu (Val/Leu) Val Z Z Leu Z Asp
(SEQ ID:47)

In the above related amino acid sequence patterns, the underlined amino acids are reference amino acids
50 X_1 .

Amino acids belonging to X_1 and X_2 respectively were extracted from these related amino acid sequence patterns to obtain the following results.

Namely, they were obtained as supposed functional region-related patterns:

X_1 ... Cys, His, Arg, Ala, Gly, Ser, Thr, Asn

55 X_2 ... Gly, Ala, Ser

as supposed non-functional region-related patterns:

X_1 ... Asp, Glu, Phe, Lys, Leu, Pro, Tyr

X_2 ... Leu, Lys, Gly, Asp, Val

Then, the following results were obtained by investigation from the viewpoints described in the relation of sense and antisense.

Namely, for example, when an attention is given to Ala (alanine) as an X_2 in the supposed functional region-related patterns, one of the codons (although, usually, a codon means one having as a unit sequence consisting of three of 4 kinds of bases composing mRNA, this is conveniently applied to DNA in this specification) is "GCT". The antisense against this codon is CGA, and when this 3-base sequence is read in the direction of $5' \rightarrow 3'$, AGC is obtained whereby Ser (serine) is coded when read in the direction of $3' \rightarrow 5'$, "CGA" is Arg (arginine).

On the other hand, when GCT, a codon of Ala (alanine), is read in the reverse direction ($3' \rightarrow 5'$), a "TCG" is Ser (serine). All these amino acids (Ser and Arg) exist in amino acids of the group of X_1 in the patterns relating to the supposed functional region-related amino acid sequence patterns. On the other hand, when Lys (lysine) is taken as an example of X_2 in the supposed non-functional region-related patterns, similar relations occur, too. Namely, one of the codons of this amino acid is AAG. The antisense against this codon is TTC, and when this 3-base sequence is read in the direction of $5' \rightarrow 3'$, "CTT" is Leu (leucine). When read in the direction of $3' \rightarrow 5'$, "TTC" is Phe (phenylalanine).

On the other hand, when AAG, a codon of Lys (lysine), is read in the reverse direction ($3' \rightarrow 5'$), "GAA" is Glu (glutamic acid). All these amino acids (Leu, Phe and Glu) exist in amino acids of the groups of X_1 in the patterns relating to the supposed non-functional region-related amino acid sequence patterns. Therefore, it can be surmised that the amino acids of X_1 and X_2 are familiar with each other based on sense and antisense. Consequently, by utilizing this relation, it is possible to efficiently surmise an active site in a test polypeptide.

A trial to find specific active sites of a test polypeptide utilizing such relations was made previously in 1981 by J. Biro (Literature 11). He proposes a hypothesis that informational complementarity exists in intermolecular or intramolecular specific interaction regions of proteins. Intramolecular (in the same protein) active sites are explained exemplifying 9 kinds of polypeptides each composed of 115 or less amino acids.

However, it is concluded that in the same molecule, regions having informational complementarity extend all over the molecule, and the predominant of active sites in the said information is undistinguished from other regions. Therefore, it is difficult to specify the active sites from amino acid sequence of their precursors.

Thus, the present inventors at first suppose an amino acid sequence pattern represented by the following formula (II):

$$X_1' (Z)_m X_2' \quad (II)$$

This amino acid sequence pattern is referred to as a supposed complementary amino acid sequence pattern for convenience sake. In the above formula (II), X_1' and X_2' are specific amino acids selected from 20 amino acids naturally occurring in proteins, and X_1' and X_2' are complementary with each other and related as above through their sense and antisense. In this sense, the above restriction requisite is essentially different from supposed amino acid sequences denoted by $X_1(Z)_n X_2$ [i.e., formula (I)]. Z_s are the same or different unspecific amino acids, and m is 0 or an integer of 1 to about 30. However, since X_1' and X_2' are related as above, it is sufficient to use m of 0 or 1, i.e., $X_1' X_2'$ and $X_1' Z X_2'$. Thus, 160 kinds of supposed complementary amino acid sequence patterns were prepared for the formulae $X_1' X_2'$ and $X_1' Z X_2'$ (X_1' and X_2' are selected from 20 kinds of amino acids).

The present inventors further intensely investigated related and unrelated amino acid sequence patterns. Thus, 102 kinds of amino acid sequence patterns were prepared based on the repetitive sequences such as $ab (Z)_m ab$ and $ab (Z)_m ba$ (wherein a , b and Z are each any of 20 amino acids, and m is an integer of 0 to 15) and a substitution frequency constant disclosed in a literature (Literature 9), and the doublet sequences composed of the same or analogous amino acids (for example, Leu Leu, Leu Ile, His His, Trp Trp, Phe Trp, Pro Pro, Lys Lys, Arg Lys, etc.).

Then, these supposed complementary amino acid sequence patterns were applied to the amino acid sequences of the reference polypeptides, a multivariate analysis was carried out to induce a statistically stable discriminant function capable of distinguishing an active site or region from other. The thus obtained discriminant function can be applied to the amino acid sequence of the test polypeptide to surmise an active site or region in the amino acid sequence.

As the first specific example of the invention, the above 262 kinds of amino acid sequence patterns were applied to the amino acid sequences of 48 kinds of reference polypeptides denoted in Table 7 (the DNA sequences were quoted the description of BION/genbank database), and thereby a discriminant function was induced for summing an active site or region (SAS, DISCRIM procedur, version 5 was used as an analytical method).

Table 7

	Protein name	Residue number	Active [*] site
5	1 Coagulation factor IX	461	267, 315, 411
10	2 Cathepsin G	255	62, 106, 199
	3 Acetylcholinesterase	649	276
	4 Cholinesterase	602	226
15	5 Cutinase	228	99, 140, 208
	6 Esterase-6	548	209
20	7 Aspartate protease	380	84, 269
	8 Rhizopus pepsin	352	60, 245
	9 Pepsinogen A	385	91, 274
25	10 Renin	401	101, 286
	11 Collagenase	469	219
30	12 Enkephalinase	749	584, 637
	13 Cell surface protease	601	255
	14 Stenomelysin	477	219
35	15 Thiol protease aleurain	362	168, 308
	16 Calpain I larger (catalytic) subunit	714	115, 272
40	17 Cystein proteinase 1	343	142, 286
	18 Papain	345	158, 292
	19 Endoglucanase EG1	256	149
45	20 Lysosome α -glucosidase	951	517
	21 Ricin	565	201
50	22 Sigma-like toxin I	315	189
	23 Carboxypeptidase Y	532	257, 508
55	24 Penicillin-linked protein 6	400	66

	25	KEX 1 carboxypeptidase	729	198, 470
	26	Micrococcus nuclease	207	93, 101, 145
5	27	Ribonuclease RH	238	62, 125
	28	Cephalosporinase	381	84
10	29	ATP synthetase α chain	513	373
	30	Fructose-1,6-biphosphatase	338	275
	31	Alkaline phosphatase	471	124
15	32	Phosphate biphosphate aldolase	364	364
	33	Arginosuccinate lyase	464	51
20	34	α enolase	434	190, 412
	35	Ribulose biphosphate carboxylase	487	204
	36	Chloramphenicol acetyltransferase	213	189
25	37	Galactose-1-phosphate uridyl transferase	365	179, 181
	38	ADP-glucose synthetase	431	39, 195
30	39	Creatine kinase	381	283
	40	Cytochrome C peroxidase	362	116, 120, 243
35	41	Malic acid dehydrogenase	312	150, 177
	42	Aldehyde dehydrogenase	497	298
	43	Glutamate dehydrogenase	558	183
40	44	DNA gyrase subunit A	821	123
	45	Biphosphoglycerate mutase	259	10, 61, 187
45	46	DNA topoisomerase	765	723
	47	Subtilisin BPN'	382	139, 171, 328
	48	Urokinase	431	224, 275, 376

The position of * was quoted from BION/swiss-prot database.

As a result, a discriminant function having a discrimination percentage of 89.2% (a priori probability of Near was 10.9%) was induced using 113 kinds of patterns out of 262 kinds of all the patterns. Further, the present inventors also conveniently induced discriminant functions having discrimination percentage of 88.6%, 85.7%

and 73.1% (a priori probabilities of Near were 20%, 30% and 50%, respectively) without changing the use of the patterns. Amino acid patterns preferentially used in these discriminant functions are shown below.

Namely, there can be enumerated

1. Gly Z Ser 2. Gly Thr 3. Val Z His
4. Ala Z Cys 5. Ala Ser 6. Ser Z Arg 7. Leu Gln
8. Val Tyr 9. Thr Z Typ 10. Thr Cys 11. Leu Z Asp
12. Gly Z Thr 13. Leu Z Gln 14. Glu Phe 15. Glu Z Phe
16. Arg Z Pro 17. Val Gln 18. Met Z His 19. $Z_1 Z_2$
- ≥ 1.8 20. Ser Ser, etc.

In the above patterns, Z may be any of the unspecified 20 amino acids. Further, Z_1 and Z_2 are amino acid sequences sequenced in tandem in the amino acid sequences, and means a combination such that the total of their substitution frequency values is 1.8 or more. The substitution frequency values were based on Literature 9. It is apparent therein is that, among preferential amino acid patterns between 17 and 48 differential amino acids used, the large majority of these preferential patterns are composed of the formula (II). Particularly, among them, patterns of Gly Z Ser, Gly Thr, Val Z His, Val Tyr, Leu Z Asp, Leu Z Gln, Val Gln and Ser Ser exhibit a high preferential order in any of the discriminant functions.

As the second specific example of the invention, the above 262 amino acid sequence patterns were applied to the amino acid sequences derived from the antisenses of 48 reference polypeptides to induce a discriminant function for surmising an active site or region (the analytical method was the same as above). In this case, since such proteins do not actually occur in nature, analysis for discriminating their active sites is carried out under the conditions of that the amino acid on the antisense corresponding to the amino acid at the position identified on the sense corresponds to the amino acid at the supposed active site.

Under the supposition, a discriminant function was deduced in the same way as above. As a result, a discrimination function was induced exhibiting a discrimination percentage of 89% (a priori probability of Near was 10.9%) using 95 patterns out of 262 kinds of patterns. Further, the present inventors also induced discriminant functions exhibiting discrimination percentage of 88.3%, 86.4% and 68.3% (a priori probabilities of Near were 20%, 30% and 50%, respectively) without changing the use of the patterns.

It is possible to apply the discriminant functions obtained by the first and second methods of the invention, individually and/or in combination, to every physiologically active polypeptide (or polynucleotide) whose amino acid sequence (or gene sequence) is known.

As exemplified in the following examples, according to the method of the invention, it is possible to efficiently surmise functional sites or regions of physiologically active polypeptides (or polynucleotides) whose amino acid sequences (or nucleic acid sequences) are known but whose active sites or regions are unknown, and thus the method is very useful for modification, improvement or the like of polypeptides (or polynucleotides).

The effectiveness of this invention is revealed below by examples.

Example 1

In order to verify the effectiveness of the method of the invention established as above, the method of the invention was applied to 14 enzymes whose active sites had been known (shown in Table 8, but they are the same as in Table 4 to Table 6), and the surmised results were compared with the actual active sites. The results are shown in Figures 1 to 14. In this connection, the active sites of these enzymes were determined based on homologous sequences to analogous enzymes (Table 1).

Table 8

	Protein name	Residue number	Action site
5			
	1 Ribonuclease (bovine)	150	38, 67, 145
10	2 Trypsinogen (canine)	246	63, 107, 200
	3 Carboxypeptidase (rat)	419	273, 358, 380
	4 Carbonic anhydrase I (human)	261	107, 200
15	6 Superoxide dismutase (human)	154	64, 144
	8 Triosephosphate isomerase (chicken)	248	165
20	9 Alcohol dehydrogenase (human)	375	49, 52
	10 Glutathione reductase (<u>Escherichia coli</u>)	450	42, 47, 439
25	12 Catalase (rat)	527	75, 148
	13 Lysozyme C (bovine)	147	53, 71
	14 Actinidine (kiwi fruit)	220	25, 162
30	15 Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase (human)	335	152, 179
	16 Phospholipase A2 (bovine)	145	70, 121
35	17 Thermolysin (bacterium)	552	379, 467

Example 2

The functional regions (namely, binding sites, etc.) of proteins other than enzymes such as cytokines, hormones and receptors were verified using the above discriminant functions. The results are shown in Table 9 to Table 13.

Table 9

Protein	Number of amino acid	Membrane penetration region	Functional site	Surmised region		
				10N	30N	50N
1. PAI-1	402		369-370	26	27,187,387	28,75,138,195,273,385
2. Angiotensinogen	484		34-43 (angiotensin I)	36,115,264	34,128,186,265, 308	33,125,194,266,335, 476
3. CD4	458	397-418	53-69	-	248,287,385	38,130,236,290,387
			68-78			
			106-117			
4. HIV envelope gp120	856		413-456	37,361	30,51,223,350	27,70,105,188,229, 352,469,528,576,676, 806
			419-427		530,668,801	
			301-324 (neutralization epitope)			
5. Poliovirus capsid	881		671-684 (main antigen site)	132,200,461, 638,800	138,202,287,385, 454,570,642,798	66,139,195,284,383, 460,573,649,791,844
			737-746 (binding site)			

Table 10

Protein	Number of amino acid	Membrane penetration region	Functional site	Surmised region		
				10N	30N	50N
6. Acetylcholine receptor α -subunit	461	235-259, 267-285, 301-320, 433-451	152-166, 208-224	44	44,143,206,326, 394,450	45,103,143,207,333, 395,444
7. Interleukin 2	153		56,58,60,62, 64,66 35-39, 47-60	128	10,100,138	
8. Insulin receptor	1382	957-979	47-147, 75-104 110-130 232-333 1029-1035,1057 (DNA binding site)	193,507,673, 762,866,1087	15,191,335,497, 565,692,754,865, 899,902,1022, 1087,1167,1232, 1346	23,122,190,244,333, 410,475,507,568,635, 693,753,862,911, 1027,1092,1169,1236, 1348

Table 11

Protein	Number of amino acid	Membrane penetration region	Functional site	Surmised region		
				10N	30N	50N
9. Insulin	110		25-54 (B chain)	-	24	21
			90-110 (A chain)			
			45-50 (binding site)			
10. Calcitonin (salmon I)	136		83-114 (calcitonin)	120	121	21,72,119
11. TNF- α	233		77-91	80	88	21,92,159,225
12. β -amyloid (A4)	695	625-648	597-638 (β -amiloid)	141	142,457,609	37,102,148,194,363, 452,614,651
13. Human-c-Ha-ras	189		12	21	17,125	16,78,130
			172-189 (binding region)			

Table 12

Protein	Number of amino acid	Membrane penetration region	Functional site	Surmised region		
				10N	30N	50N
14. il-receptor (tac)	272	242-260	22-27,56-64	-	176	42,143,175,255
15. HBsAg	400		21-47	151,368	31,146,211,364	31,69,149,213,291, 369
16. hGH	217		38-45,80-99, 190-217	-	135	135,205
17. mNGF	307		198(W),199(V)	54,186	13,58,113,185, 252	15,58,120,188,214, 245
18. IFN- γ	166		151-155, 156-166	-	38	39,147
19. Estrogen receptor	595		353-362, 533-548	190,463,553	10 ³ ,80,189,280, 397,467,549	11,81,189,246,283, 350,398,465,514,548
20. Chorionic gonadotropin β -subunit	165		58-77	-	35	35,152

Table 13

Protein	Number of amino acid	Membrane penetration region	Functional site	Surmised region		
				10N	30N	50N
21. Glucagon	179		53-81	-	23	20,106,164
22. ACTH (pig)	267		136-174 (ACTH)	05	86,153,235	19,77,150,231
			217-224 (β -LPH)			
			227-267 (β -endorphin)			
23. Human c-fos	380		143-158 (basic motif)	108	35,105,302	34,104,161,225,305,357
			165-193 (leucine zipper)			
24. TGF- α	160		73-82	26,85	23,79,146	22,74,146
25. ANP	152		123-150 (ANP)	-	33,75	21,73,124
26. Somatostatin	116		89-116 (somatostatin)	104	28,104	27,104

Example 3

As a typical example in substances other than proteins, a surmised result is obtained on the catalytically active site of a tobacco ringspot virus (TRSV), one of ribozymes. It is known that TRSV is an RNA composed of 359 nucleotides and its catalytically active site exists in the 50 nucleotides between the thymine nucleotide at the 175th position and the thymine nucleotide at the 224th position. The amino acid sequence obtained by translation of this nucleotide sequence is as follows.

```

    Thr Gly Cys Ala Phe Arg Ser Asp Glu Ser Val Arg Thr
    Lys Gln Asp Cys Gln Val Ala Glu Ser His His Val Asn
    . . Thr Val Leu Arg Ser Val Gly Val Cys Tyr Leu Val
    Gly Gly Gly Asp Cys Ser Leu Arg Val Gly Ala Ala Val
    . Leu Val Lys Ala Tyr Gln Val Ile Tyr His Asn Val
    Cys Phe Ser Gly . Leu Leu Cys Leu Leu Cys His Trp
    Phe Pro Asp Leu Ala Leu Ala Ala Thr Gly Tyr Ser His
    Ser Thr Trp Lys Phe Glu Arg Pro Arg Leu Tyr Thr Met
    Arg Gly Glu Ser Lys Leu Phe . Pro Asp Thr Leu
    (SEQ ID:48)
  
```

The result obtained by applying the above discriminant function to this sequence is shown in Fig. 15.

As mentioned above, according to the method of the invention, it is possible to effectively surmise the active site of a physiologically active polypeptide whose amino acid sequence is known but whose active site is not known, and thus the method is very useful tool for understanding the functional mechanism of polypeptides, modification and improvement of polypeptides, etc.

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SEQUENCE LISTING

5

SEQ ID NO: 1

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

10

(A) LENGTH: 7 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

15

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

20

(ix) FERTURE:

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa2: Gly or Ser; Xaa7: Gly or Ala;

25

Xaa4 and Xaa6: any amino acid

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 1

30

Cys Xaa Ala Xaa Gly Xaa Xaa
1 5

SEQ ID NO: 2

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

35

(A) LENGTH: 11 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

40

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

45

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

50

Xaa2, Xaa3, Xaa6, Xaa8, Xaa9: any amino
acid; Xaa4: Gly or Ser

55

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 2

His Xaa Xaa Ser Xaa Xaa Gly Xaa Gly Xaa Gly
 1 5 10

SEQ ID NO: 3

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 11 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa3, Xaa4, Xaa5, Xaa7, Xaa9, Xaa10: any
 amino acid; Xaa11: Gly, Ala or Ser

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 3

Arg Ser Xaa Xaa Xaa Ala Xaa Ser Xaa Xaa Xaa
 1 5 10

SEQ ID NO: 4

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 14 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

All Xaa: any amino acid

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 4

Ala Xaa Ser Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Gly Xaa Xaa Gly Xaa
 1 5 10
 Ala Xaa

SEQ ID NO: 5

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 13 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa3, Xaa4, Xaa5: any amino acid; Xaa:
 Gly or Ser; Xaa11: Ala or Gly; Xaa13:
 Gly or Ser

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 5

Gly Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Ser Gly Ala Ser Gly Xaa Gly
 1 5 10
 Xaa

SEQ ID NO: 6

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 13 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa5, Xaa8, Xaa10, Xaa12: any amino acid;

Xaa2: Gly or Ser

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 6

Ser Xaa Ala Ser Xaa Gly Ser Xaa Gly Xaa Ser Xaa
 1 5 10
 Gly

SEQ ID NO: 7

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 10 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa4, Xaa7: any amino acid; Xaa2: Gly
 or Ala; Xaa6: Ala or Ser; Xaa10: Ala
 or Ser; Xaa10: Gly or Ser

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 7

Thr Xaa Ala Xaa Ala Xaa Xaa Ala Xaa Xaa
 1 5 10

SEQ ID NO: 8

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 13 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa2, Xaa3, Xaa7, Xaa11, Xaa12: any amino
acid; Xaa5: Gly or Ala; Xaa8: Ser or
Ala; Xaa10: Ser or Ala

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 8

Asn Xaa Xaa Ser Xaa Ala Xaa Xaa Gly Xaa Xaa Xaa
1 5 10
Ser

SEQ ID NO: 9

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 13 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa4, Xaa6, Xaa7: any amino acid; Xaa3:
Leu or Lys; Xaa13: Gly or Lys

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 9

Asp Pro Xaa Xaa Leu Xaa Xaa Val Lys Leu Leu Leu
1 5 10
Xaa

SEQ ID NO: 10

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 13 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid
 5 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
 (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide
 (iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes
 10 (ix) FERTURE
 (D) OTHER INFORMATION:
 15 Xaa2, Xaa3, Xaa4, Xaa5, Xaa7, Xaa12: any
 amino acid; Xaa10: Asp or Leu; Xaa11:
 Gly or Asp; Xaa13: Gly or Lys
 20 (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 10
 Glu Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Lys Xaa Leu Leu Xaa Xaa Xaa
 1 5 10
 Xaa

25
 SEQ ID NO: 11

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 30 (A) LENGTH: 14 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
 35 (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide
 (iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes
 40 (ix) FERTURE
 (D) OTHER INFORMATION:
 Xaa6, Xaa9, Xaa10: any amino acid; Xaa2:
 45 Gly or Leu; Xaa5: Gly or Val; Xaa7: Val
 or Asp; Xaa11: Gly or Leu
 (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 11
 50 Phe Xaa Asp Asp Xaa Xaa Xaa Val Xaa Xaa Xaa Val
 1 5 10

55

Gly Asp

SEQ ID NO: 12

5

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 14 amino acids

10

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

15

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

20

Xaa4, Xaa5: any amino acid; Xaa3: Asp

or Lys; Xaa9: Asp or Lys; Xaa10: Lal

25

or Leu

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 12

Lys Leu Xaa Xaa Xaa Gly Leu Gly Xaa Xaa Gly Leu

30

1

5

10

Asp Leu

SEQ ID NO: 13

35

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 14 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

40

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

45

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

50

Xaa4, Xaa6, Xaa7, Xaa8: any amino acid;

55

Xaa5: Gly or Asp; Xaa10: Asp or Lys;
 Xaa11: Asp or Val; Xaa12: Asp or Lys;
 Xaa13: Val or Leu; Xaa14: Lys or Val

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 13

Leu Lys Asp Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Leu Xaa Xaa Xaa
 1 5 10
 Xaa Xaa

SEQ ID NO: 14

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 14 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa5, Xaa6, Xaa7, Xaa8: any amino acid;

Xaa9: Val or Gly; Xaa10: Gly or Lys;

Xaa 13: Gly or Lys

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 14

Pro Asp Lys Gly Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Lys Val
 1 5 10
 Xaa Leu

SEQ ID NO: 15

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 11 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa3, Xaa7, Xaa8 Xaa10: any amino acid;

Xaa5: Val or Leu

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 15

Tyr Val Xaa Leu Xaa Val Xaa Xaa Leu Xaa Asp
1 5 10

SEQ ID NO: 16

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 7 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa4, Xaa6: any amino acid; Xaa2: Gly or

Ser; Xaa7: Gly or Ala

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 16

Cys Xaa Ala Xaa Gly Xaa Xaa
1 5

SEQ ID NO: 17

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 13 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa2, Xaa4 Xaa10, Xaa 12: any amino acid;

Xaa1: Gly or Ala; Xaa6: Gly or Ser;

Xaa8: Gly or Ser; Xaa13: Gly or Ala

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 17

Xaa	Xaa	Gly	Xaa	Ala	Xaa	Cys	Xaa	Ala	Xaa	Gly	Xaa
1				5					10		
Xaa											

SEQ ID NO: 18

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 7 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa4, Xaa6: any amino acid; Xaa2: Gly or

Ser; Xaa5: Gly or Arg; Xaa7: Gly or

Ala

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 18

Cys	Xaa	Ala	Xaa	Xaa	Xaa	Xaa
1				5		

SEQ ID NO: 19

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 11 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa2, Xaa3, Xaa6, Xaa8, Xaa10: any amino
acid; Xaa5: Gly or Ser

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 19

His Xaa Xaa Ser Xaa Xaa Gly Xaa Gly Xaa Gly
1 5 10

SEQ ID NO: 20

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 12 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa3, Xaa4, Xaa7, Xaa9, Xaa10: any amino
acid; Xaa11: Gly, Ala or Ser; Xaa12:
Ser or Val

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 20

Arg Ser Xaa Xaa Cys Ala Xaa Ser Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa
 1 5 10

5 SEQ ID NO: 21

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 13 amino acids

10

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

15

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

20

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa3: any amino acid; Xaa2: Ser, Thr,

25

Val or Cys; Xaa4: Thr, Leu or Asn;

Xaa5: Thr or Asn; Xaa7: Gly, Thr or

Asn; Xaa8: Thr or Glu; Xaa9: Ile or

30

Asn; Xaa10: Gly or Arg; Xaa11: Glu or

Glum

35

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 21

Ala Thr Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Cys Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa
 1 5 10
 Ala

40

SEQ ID NO: 22

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 14 amino acids

45

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

50

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

55

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

5

Xaa2: Gly, Ser or Thr; Xaa5: Asn, His
or Cys; Xaa6: Ser, Pro or Phe; Xaa7:

10

Gly, His or Cys; Xaa8: Ile or Asn;

Xaa9: Gly or Thr; Xaa10: Ala, Val, Gly,
Arg, His, Tyr; Xaa12: Gly or Ser

15

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 22

Gly Xaa Gln Tyr Xaa Xaa Xaa Ala Xaa Xaa Xaa Gly
1 5 10
Xaa Val

20

SEQ ID NO: 23

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

25

(A) LENGTH: 14 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

30

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

35

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

40

Xaa2: Gly, Lys, Glu, Cys, Ser or Arg;

Xaa4: Ser, Leu, Asn or His; Xaa5: Glu,
Val, His or Phe; Xaa6: Gly, Thr or Val;

45

Xaa7: Lys, Ser or Tyr; Xaa8: Asn, Gln
or Arg; Xaa9: Gly or Thr; Xaa10: Asn,

50

Ile or Glu; Xaa11: Gln, Ile, Ser or Arg;

Xaa13: Asn or Gly; Xaa14: Ile or Glu

55

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 23

Ser Xaa Ala Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Arg
 1 5 10
 Xaa Xaa

SEQ ID NO: 24

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 13 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa2: Gly or Ala; Xaa3: Ala or Ile;

Xaa5: Ala, Val or Leu; Xaa6: Ala, Ser

or Leu; Xaa7: Asp, Pro or Glu; Xaa8:

Ala, Thr or Leu; Xaa9: Ala, Ser or Phe;

Xaa10: Gly, Ser or Val; Xaa11: Asp, Leu

or Val; Xaa12: Asp, Lys or Ile; Xaa13:

Val or Leu

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 24

Thr Xaa Xaa Thr Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa
 1 5 10
 Xaa

SEQ ID NO: 25

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 13 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa2: Thr or Leu; Xaa4: Val or Ser;

Xaa5: Gly or Ala; Xaa7: Lys or Ile;

Xaa8: Ser, Ala or Lys; Xaa10: Ser, Asp

or Alu; Xaa13: Ser or Lys; Xaa11,

Xaa12: any amino acid

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 25

Asn Xaa Leu Xaa Xaa Ala Xaa Xaa Gly Xaa Xaa Xaa
 1 5 10
 Xaa

SEQ ID NO: 26

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 14 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa3: Ala, Leu or Lys; Xaa4: Ile or

Phe; Xaa10: Leu or Glu; Xaa11: Ser,

Leu or Glu; Xaa12: Gly or Leu

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 26

Asp Pro Xaa Xaa Leu Ala Phe Val Lys Xaa Xaa Xaa
 1 5 10
 Lys Phe

SEQ ID NO: 27

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 13 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa2, Xaa4, Xaa5, Xaa7: any amino acid;

Xaa6: Lys, Phe or Ser; Xaa8: Pro or

Leu; Xaa10: Asp, Leu or Ile; Xaa11:

Gly or Asp; Xaa12: Ser or Ile; Xaa13:

Gly, Lys or Phe

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 27

Glu Xaa Ile Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Leu Xaa Xaa Xaa
 1 5 10
 Xaa

SEQ ID NO: 28

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 14 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa2: Gly or Leu; Xaa3: Asp or Ser;
 Xaa4: Ile or Asp; Xaa5: Gly or Val;
 Xaa6: Ser or Glu; Xaa7: Val or Asp;
 Xaa10: any amino acid; Xaa11: Gly or
 Leu; Xaa12: Val, Ser or Thr; Xaa13:
 Gly or Glu

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 28

Phe Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Val Ala Xaa Xaa Xaa
 1 5 10
 Xaa Asp

SEQ ID NO: 29

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 14 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa3: Asp, Asn, Pro, Lys or Thr; Xaa4,
 Xaa5: any amino acid; Xaa6: Gly, Glu or
 Ser; Xaa7: Leu or Ile; Xaa8: Gly or
 Thr; Xaa9: Asp, Lys or Thr; Xaa10:
 Val, Leu, Pro or Asn; Xaa11: Gly or Pro;
 Xaa13: Ser, Pro, Asp, Glu or Ile

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 29

5 Lys Leu Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Leu
 1 5 10
 Xaa Leu

SEQ ID NO: 30

10 (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 14 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

15 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

20 (iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

25 Xaa2: Lys or Phe; Xaa3: Asp or Gln;
 Xaa4: Ile or Tyr; Xaa5: Gly, Asp or
 30 Tyr; Xaa6: Arg or Asn; Xaa8: Glu, Leu
 or Tyr; Xaa9: Asp, Lys, Glu or Ile;
 Xaa10: Asp, Lys, Glu or Ile; Xaa11:
 35 Asp, Ala, Val or Phe; Xaa12: Asp or Lys;
 Xaa13: Val or Leu; Xaa14: Pro, Lys or
 40 Val

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 30

45 Leu Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Glu Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa
 1 5 10
 Xaa Xaa

SEQ ID NO: 31

50 (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 14 amino acids

55

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa2: Asp, Ala or Ile; Xaa5: any amino
acid; Xaa7: Ala or Asn; Xaa9: Val or
Gly; Xaa10: Gly, Ser or Lys; Xaa13:
Gly, Ala, Lys or Ile; Xaa14: Leu or Ala

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 31

Pro Xaa Lys Gly Xaa Thr Xaa Ala Xaa Xaa Lys Val
1 5 10
Xaa Xaa

SEQ ID NO: 32

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 11 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa3, Xaa7: any amino acid; Xaa5: Asn,
Val or Leu; Xaa6: Ser, Asn or Val

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 32

Tyr Val Xaa Leu Xaa Xaa Xaa Asn Leu Thr Asp
1 5 10

SEQ ID NO: 33

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 7 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa4, Xaa6: any amino acid; Xaa2: Gly
or Ser; Xaa7: Gly or Ala

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 33

Cys Xaa Ala Xaa Gly Xaa Xaa
1 5

SEQ ID NO: 34

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 11 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa2, Xaa3, Xaa6, Xaa8, Xaa10: any amino
acid; Xaa5: Gly or Ser

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 34

His Xaa Xaa Ser Xaa Xaa Gly Xaa Gly Xaa Gly
 1 5 10

5 SEQ ID NO: 35

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 11 amino acids

10

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

15

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

20

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa3, Xaa4, Xaa5, Xaa7, Xaa9, Xaa10: any

25

amino acid; Xaa11: Gly, Ala or Ser

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 35

Arg Ser Xaa Xaa Xaa Al Xaa Ser Xaa Xaa Xaa
 1 5 10

30

SEQ ID NO: 36

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

35

(A) LENGTH: 14 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

40

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

45

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

50

Xaa2, Xaa4, Xaa5, Xaa6, Xaa7, Xaa9, Xaa10,

Xaa12, Xaa14: any amino acid

55

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 36

Ala Xaa Ser Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Gly Xaa Xaa Gly Xaa
 1 5 10
 Ala Xaa

SEQ ID NO: 37

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 13 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa3, Xaa4, Xaa5: any amino acid; Xaa2:

Gly or Ser; Xaa11: Ala or Gly; Xaa13:

Gly or Ser

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 37

Gly Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Ser Gly Ala Ser Gly Xaa Gly
 1 5 10
 Xaa

SEQ ID NO: 38

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 13 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa2: Gly or Ser; Xaa5, Xaa8, Xaa10,
Xaa12: any amino acid

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 38

Ser Xaa Ala Ser Xaa Gly Ser Xaa Gly Xaa Ser Xaa
1 5 10
Gly

SEQ ID NO: 39

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 10 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa2: Gly or Ala; Xaa6: Ala or Ser;
Xaa9: Ala or Ser; Xaa10: Gly or Ser;
Xaa4, Xaa7: any amino acid

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 39

Thr Xaa Ala Xaa Ala Xaa Xaa Ala Xaa Xaa
1 5 10

SEQ ID NO: 40

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 13 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa2, Xaa3, Xaa7, Xaa11, Xaa12: any amino
acid; Xaa5: Gly or Ala; Xaa8: Ser or
Ala; Xaa10: Ser or Ala

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 40

Asn Xaa Xaa Ser Xaa Ala Xaa Xaa Gly Xaa Xaa Xaa
1 5 10
Ser

SEQ ID NO: 41

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 13 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa4, Xaa7, Xaa8: any amino acid; Xaa3:
Leu or Lys; Xaa13: Gly or Lys

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 41

Asp Pro Xaa Xaa Leu Xaa Xaa Val Lys Leu Leu Leu
1 5 10
Xaa

SEQ ID NO: 42

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 13 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

5

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

10

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

15

Xaa2, Xaa3, Xaa4, Xaa5, Xaa7, Xaa12: any

amino acid; Xaa10: Asp or Leu; Xaa11:

Gly or Asp; Xaa13: Gly or Lys

20

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 42

Glu Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Lys Xaa Leu Leu Xaa Xaa Xaa
 1 5 10
 Xaa

25

SEQ ID NO: 43

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

30

(A) LENGTH: 14 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

35

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

40

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

45

Xaa6, Xaa9, Xaa10: any amino acid; Xaa2:

Gly or Leu; Xaa5: Gly or Val; Xaa7:

Val or Asp; Xaa11: Gly or Leu

50

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 43

55

Phe Xaa Asp Asp Xaa Xaa Xaa Val Xaa Xaa Xaa Val
 1 5 10
 Gly Asp

5

SEQ ID NO: 44

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

10

(A) LENGTH: 14 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

15

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

20

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

25

Xaa4, Xaa5: any amino acid; Xaa3: Asp
 or Lys; Xaa9: Asp or Lys; Xaa10: Val
 or Leu

30

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 44

Lys Leu Xaa Xaa Xaa Gly Leu Gly Xaa Xaa Gly Leu
 1 5 10
 Asp Leu

35

SEQ ID NO: 45

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

40

(A) LENGTH: 14 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

45

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

50

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

55

Xaa4, Xaa6, Xaa7, Xaa8: any amino acid;

Xaa5: Gly or Asp; Xaa10: Asp or Lys;

Xaa11: Asp or Val; Xaa12: Asp or Lys;

Xaa13: Val or Leu; Xaa14: Lys or Val

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 45

Leu Lys Asp Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Leu Xaa Xaa Xaa
 1 5 10
 Xaa Xaa

SEQ ID NO: 46

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 14 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa5, Xaa6, Xaa7, Xaa8: any amino acid;

Xaa9: Val or Gly; Xaa10: Gly or Lys;

Xaa13: Gly or Lys

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 46

Pro Asp Lys Gly Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Lys Val
 1 5 10
 Xaa Leu

SEQ ID NO: 47

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 11 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: yes

(ix) FERTURE

(D) OTHER INFORMATION:

Xaa3, Xaa7, Xaa8, Xaa10: any amino acid;

Xaa5: Val or Leu

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 47

Tyr Val Xaa Leu Xaa Val Xaa Xaa Leu Xaa Asp

SEQ ID NO: 48

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 117 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 48

Thr Gly Cys Ala Phe Arg Ser Asp Glu Ser Val Arg
1 5 10

Thr Lys Gln Asp Cys Gln Val Ala Glu Ser His His
15 20

Val Asn Xaa Xaa Thr Val Leu Arg Ser Val Gly Val
25 30 35

Cys Tyr Leu Val Gly Gly Gly Asp Cys Ser Leu Arg
40 45

Val Gly Ala Ala Val Xaa Leu Val Lys Ala Tyr Gln
50 55 60

Val Ile Tyr His Asn Val Cys Phe Ser Gly Xaa Leu
65 70

Leu Cys Leu Leu Cys His Trp Phe Pro Asp Leu Ala
75 80

Leu Ala Ala Thr Gly Tyr Ser His Ser Thr Trp Lys
85 90 95

Phe Glu Arg Pro Arg Leu Tyr Thr Met Arg Gly Glu
100 105

Ser Lys Leu Phe Xaa Pro Asp Thr Leu
110 115

Claims

1. A method for preparing a method for surmising the functional site or region in a physiologically active polypeptide whose amino acid sequence is known (test polypeptide), which comprises

(1) selecting, as the reference polypeptides, a plurality of known physiologically active peptides whose action site amino acid is known; supposing, as the functional regions in the known amino acid sequence of these reference polypeptides (reference amino acid sequence), the supposed functional regions which consist of a plurality of amino acids in both downstream and upstream of the active site amino acid, and the supposed non-functional region excluding a functional region;

(2) supposing many amino acid sequence patterns (referred to as supposed amino acid sequence patterns) conforming to the following formula (I) consisting of two or more amino acids selected from 20 amino acids usually existing in natural physiologically active polypeptides:

$$X_1 (Z)_n X_2 \quad (I)$$

(wherein X_1 and X_2 are the same or different, and are each any specific amino acid, Z_s are the same or different unspecific amino acids, n is 0 or an integer of up to about 30, and X_1 is here referred to as a reference amino acid);

(3) scanning, by each of the many supposed amino acid sequence patterns of the above (2), the reference amino acid sequences selected in the above (1) with the supposed functional region and/or the supposed non-functional region; selecting supposed amino acid sequence patterns having a high frequency in accordance with the supposed functional region and/or supposed amino acid sequence patterns having a high frequency in accordance with the supposed non-functional region; and with respect to each supposed region, superposing, the supposed amino acid sequence patterns which have same reference amino acid X_1 wherein the reference amino acid X_1 is rearranged to determine an amino acid sequence pattern related to the supposed functional region (supposed functional region-related amino acid sequence pattern) or an amino acid sequence pattern related to the supposed non-functional region (supposed non-functional region-related amino acid sequence pattern) (both are all-inclusively referred to as a related amino acid sequence pattern); and

(4) determining symmetrical related amino acid sequence patterns consisting of the supposed functional and non-functional region-related amino acid sequence patterns determined in the above (3), which have a small number of amino acids extending symmetrically in the direction upstream and downstream of the reference amino acid X_1 as a center; comparing the symmetrical related amino acid sequence pattern with the reference amino acid sequences selected in the above (1) by superposing; determining the number of amino acids between both sequences in the range of the predetermined number of amino acids containing the amino acid as the center (identical amino acids), and comparing the results with the supposed functional region and/or supposed non-functional region in the reference amino acid sequences, to prepare a criterion for the determination of the functional sites or regions.

2. A method for identifying the functional site or region of a polypeptide whose amino acid sequence is known but whose functional site or region is not known (test polypeptide), which comprises comparing the amino acid sequence of the test polypeptide with the symmetrical related amino acid patterns determined in the (4) of claim 1, and applying to the results the criterion determined in the (4) of claim 1.

3. A method for preparing a method for surmising a functional site or region in a physiologically active

polypeptide whose amino acid sequence is known (test polypeptide), which comprises

(1) selecting, as the reference polypeptides, a plurality of known physiologically active peptides whose action site amino acid is known; supposing, as the functional regions in the known amino acid sequence of these reference polypeptides (reference amino acid sequence), the supposed functional regions which consist of a plurality of amino acids in both downstream and upstream of the active site amino acid, and the supposed non-functional region excluding a functional region;

(2) supposing many amino acid sequence patterns (referred to as secondary supposed amino acid sequence patterns) conforming to the following formula (II):

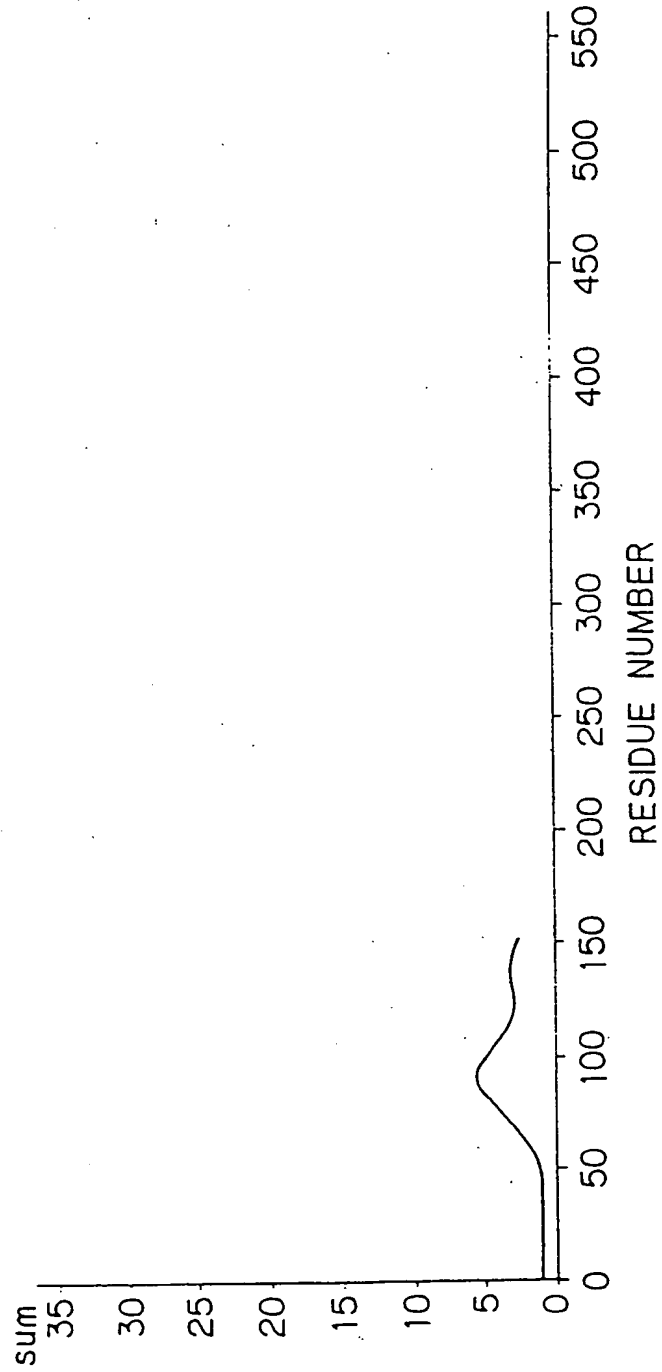
$$X_1' (Z)_m X_2' \quad (II)$$

(wherein X_1' and X_2' are the same or different, and are each any specific amino acid, Z are the same or different unspecific amino acids, and m is 0 or an integer of up to about 30, wherein, X_2' is the same with X_1' , or any of the amino acid supposed when the genetic codon encoding X_1' were read in the reverse direction of $3' \rightarrow 5'$, the amino acid supposed when the antisense corresponding to the codon was read in the direction of $5' \rightarrow 3'$ and the amino acid supposed when the antisense corresponding to the codon was read in the reverse direction of $3' \rightarrow 5'$); and

(3) carrying out multivariate analysis for inducing a discriminant function from the reference amino acid sequences to distinguish the supposed functional region from supposed non-functional region of the above (1) by the secondary supposed amino acid sequence patterns determined in the above (2).

4. A method for surmising the functional site or region in a physiologically active polypeptide whose amino acid sequence is known (test polypeptide), which comprises applying the discriminant function determined in the step (3) of claim 3 to the amino acid sequence of the test polypeptide.
5. A method for surmising a site or a region in a polynucleotide, encoding the functional site or region in a physiologically active polypeptide, which comprises applying the operations described in claim 1 or 2 to an amino acid sequence translated from the nucleotide sequence of the polynucleotide.
6. A method for surmising a site or a region in a polynucleotide, encoding the action site or region in a physiologically active polypeptide, which comprises applying the operations described in claim 3 or 4 to an amino acid sequence translated from the nucleotide sequence of the polynucleotide.
7. A synthetic polypeptide composed using at least two successive amino acids in the amino acid sequence of the functional site or region surmised by claim 2.
8. A synthetic polypeptide using at least two successive amino acids in the amino acid sequence of the functional site or region surmised by claim 4.
9. A synthetic polynucleotide using at least six successive nucleotides in the nucleotide sequence of the site or region of a polynucleotide surmised by claim 5.
10. A synthetic polynucleotide composed using at least six successive nucleotides in the nucleotide sequence of the site or region of a polypeptide surmised by claim 6.
11. A method of preparing a polypeptide or polynucleotide comprising performing a method according to any of claims 1-6 in order to surmise a sequence of a functional site or region of a physiologically active polypeptide or polynucleotide; and synthesising a polypeptide or a polynucleotide including at least part of said sequence, or a polynucleotide encoding at least part of said polypeptide sequence.

Fig. 1



PEAK AMINO ACID 90'Ala' 137'Glu'

Fig. 2

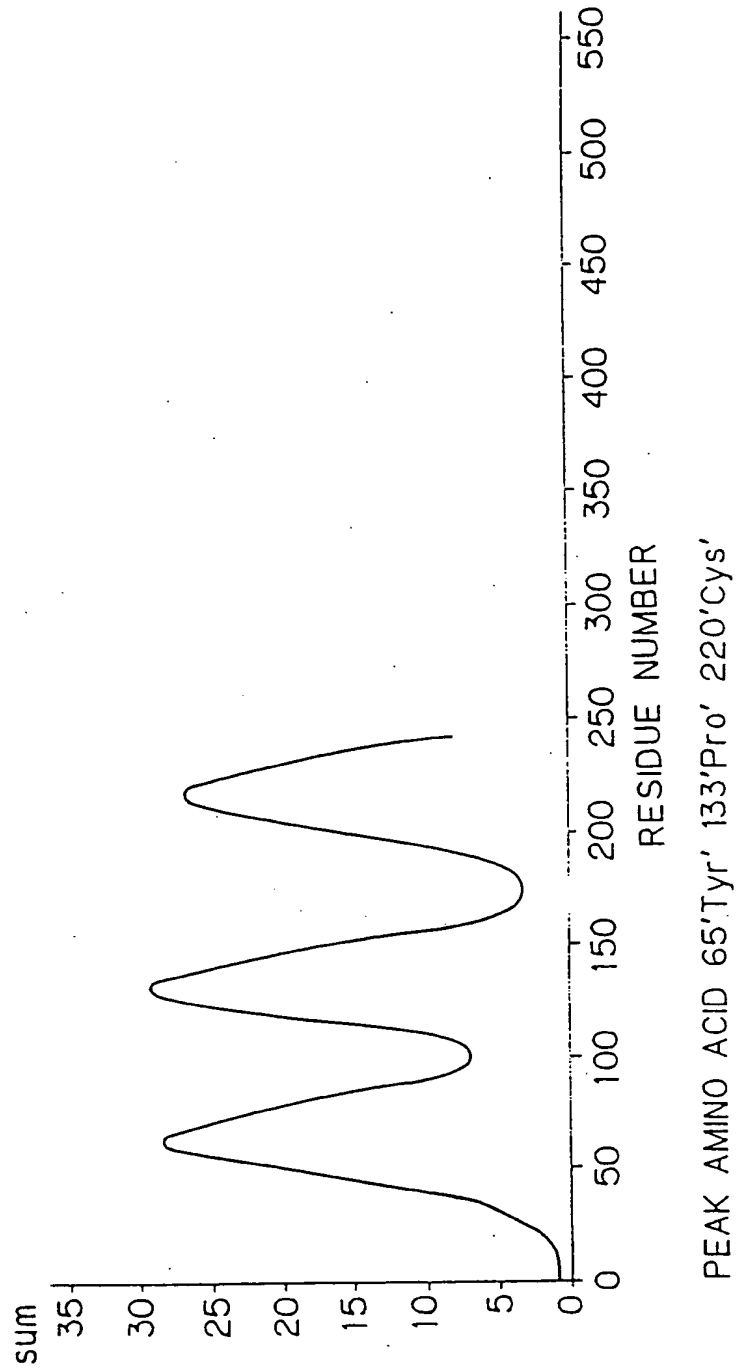
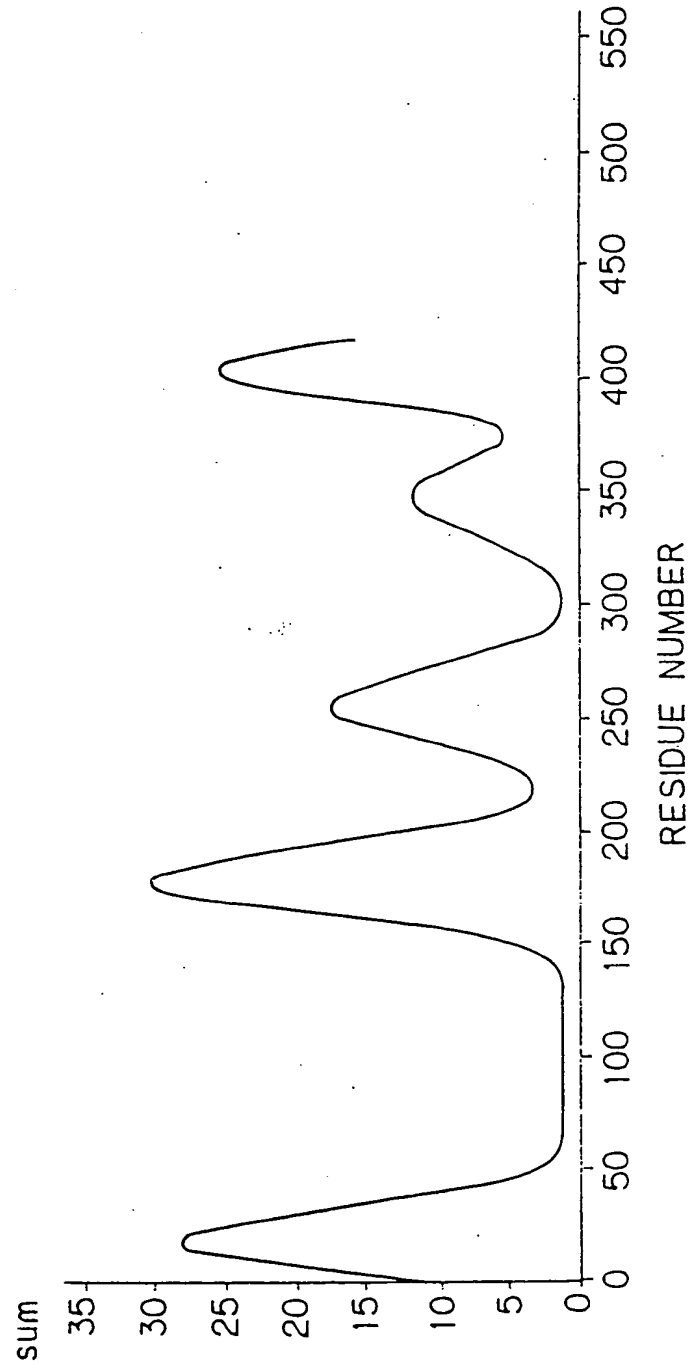
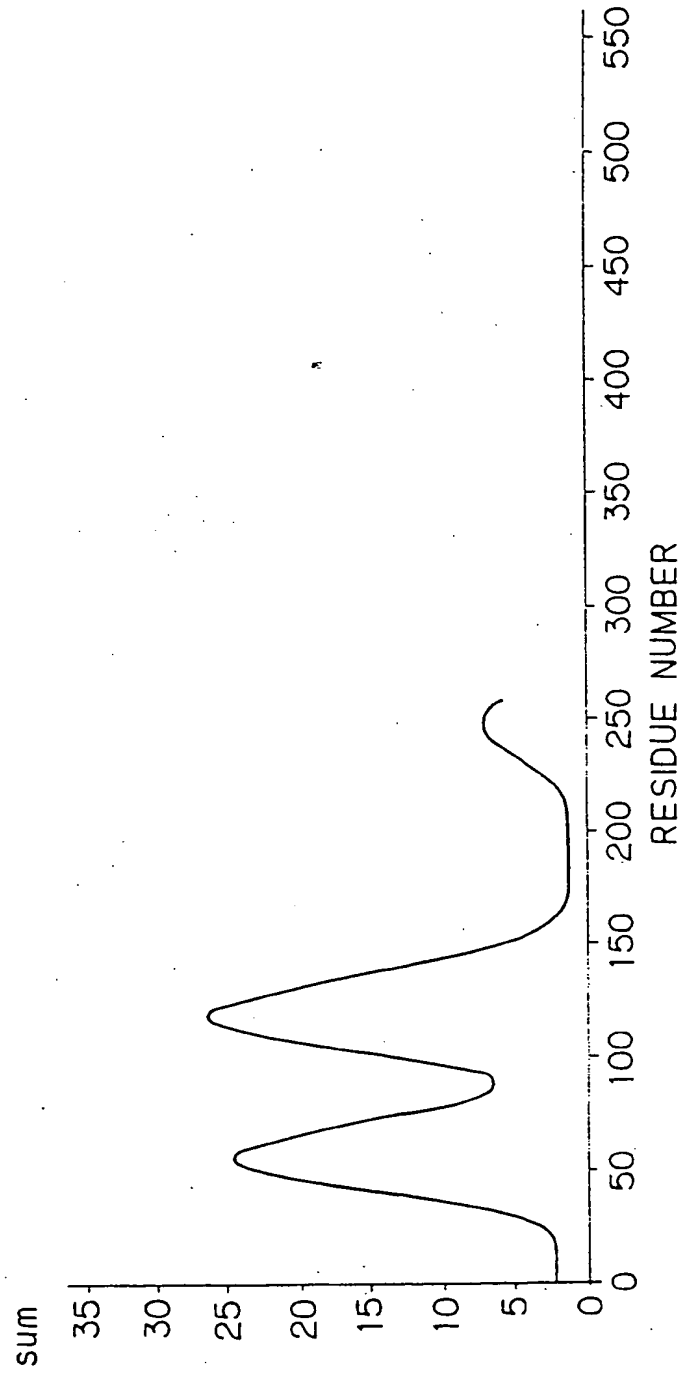


Fig. 3



PEAK AMINO ACID 19'Asn' 179'His' 256'Asn' 348'Phe' 404'Trp'

Fig. 4



PEAK AMINO ACID 10'Asp' 57'Ala' 120'His' 248'Pro'

Fig. 5

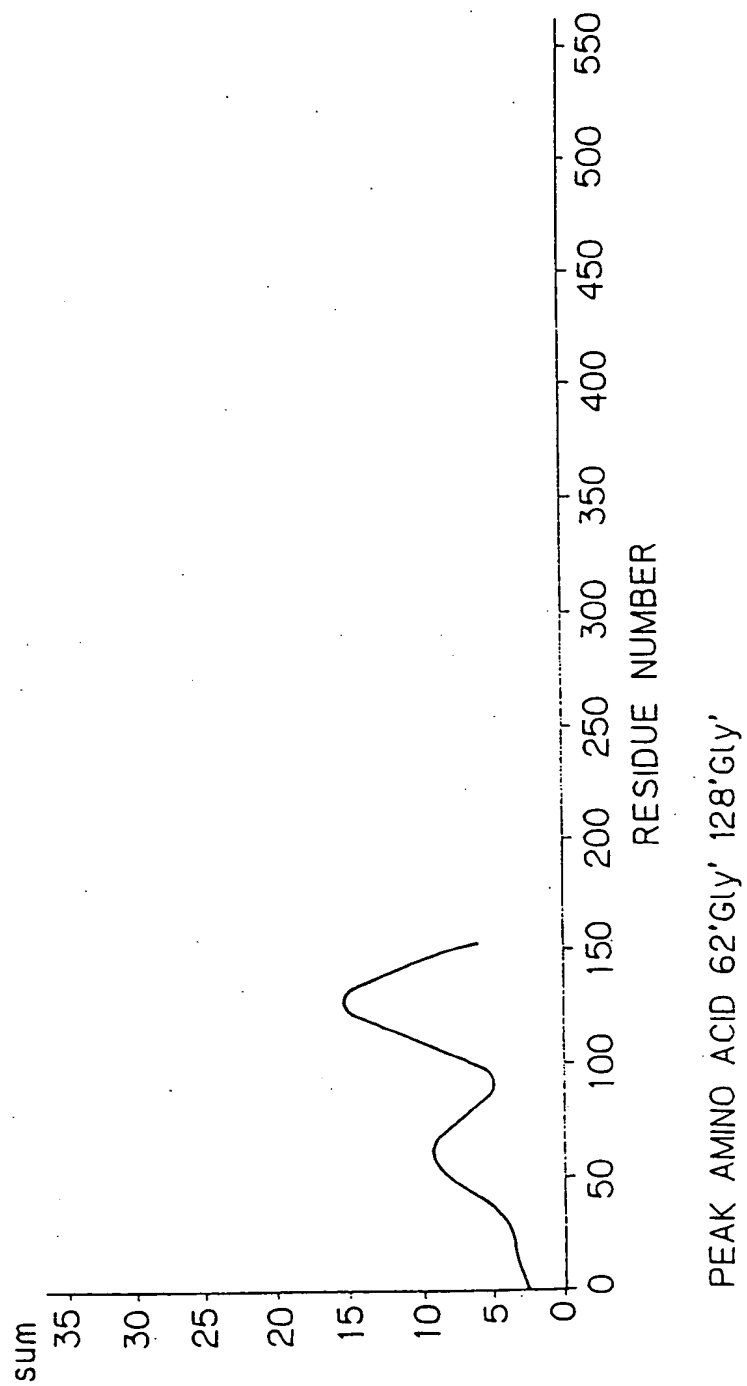


Fig. 6

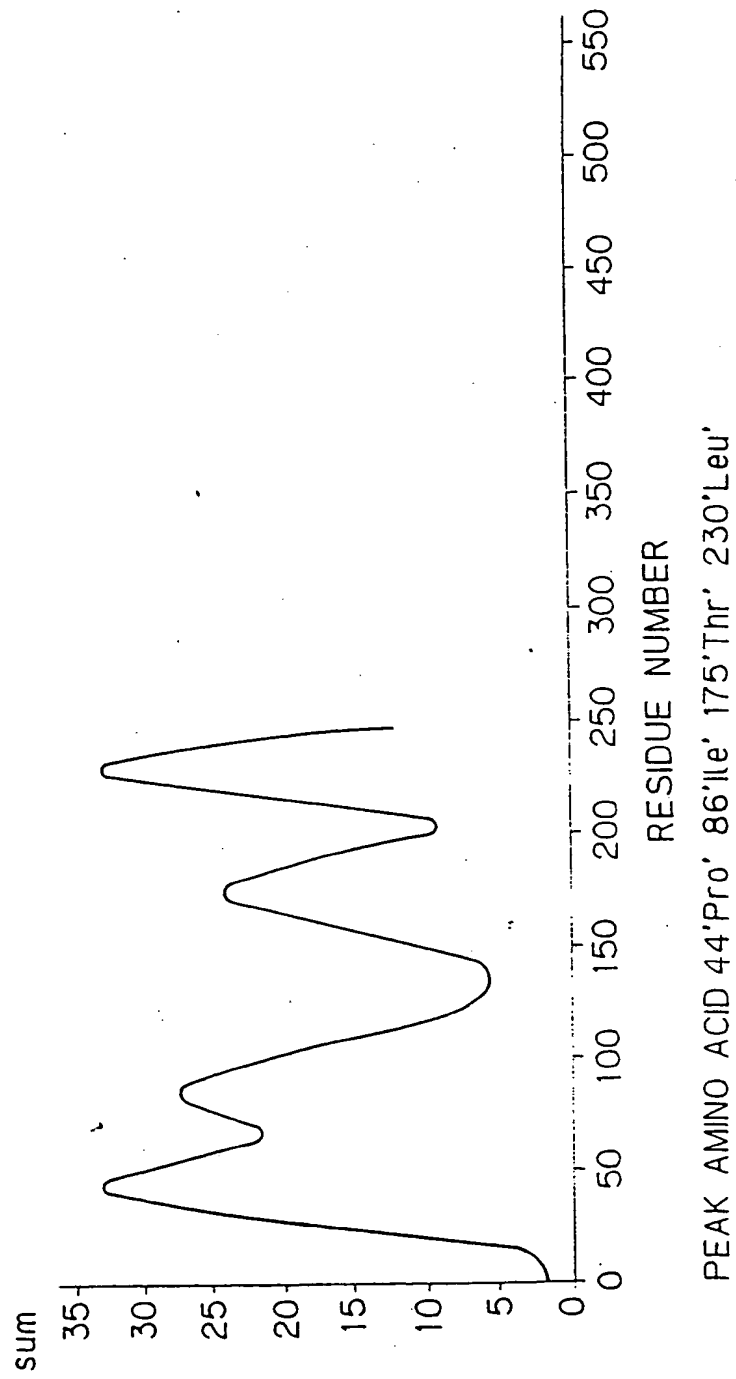


Fig. 7

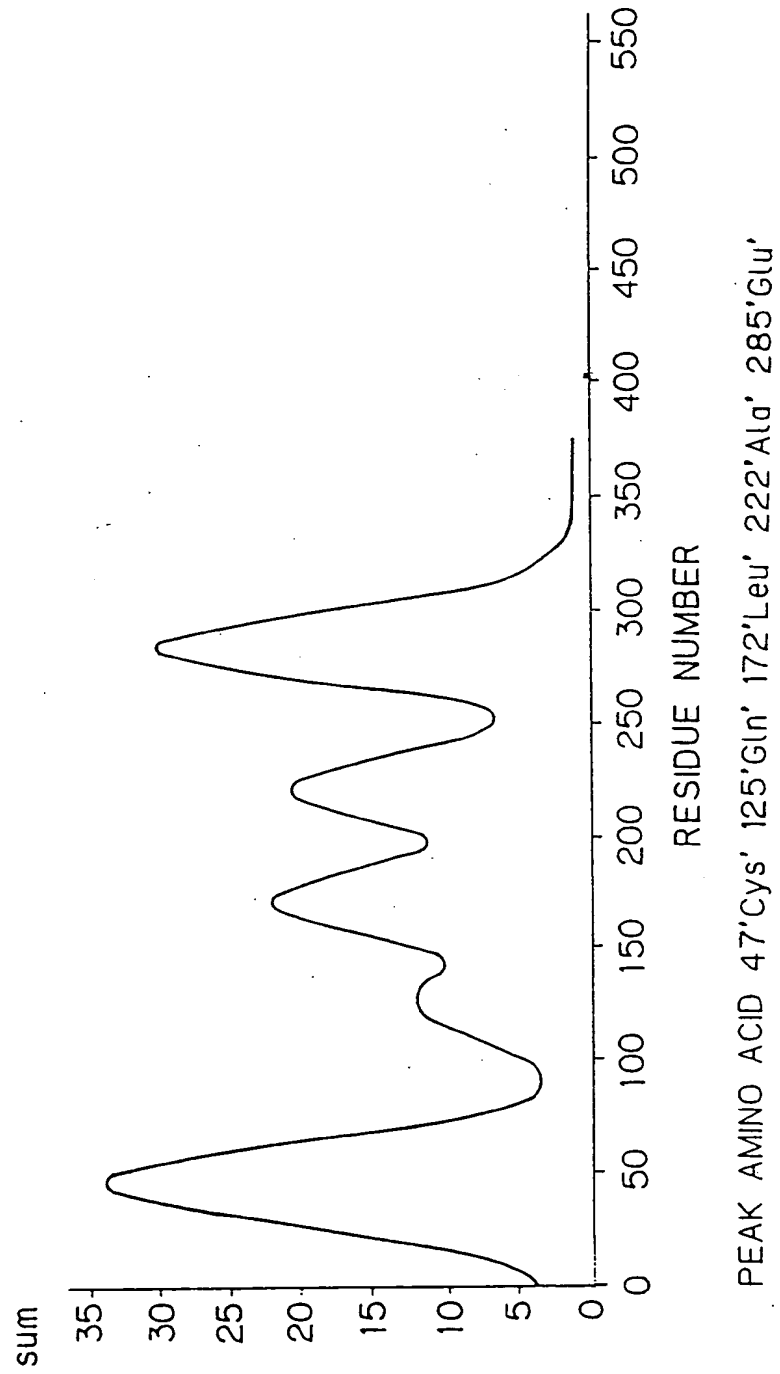
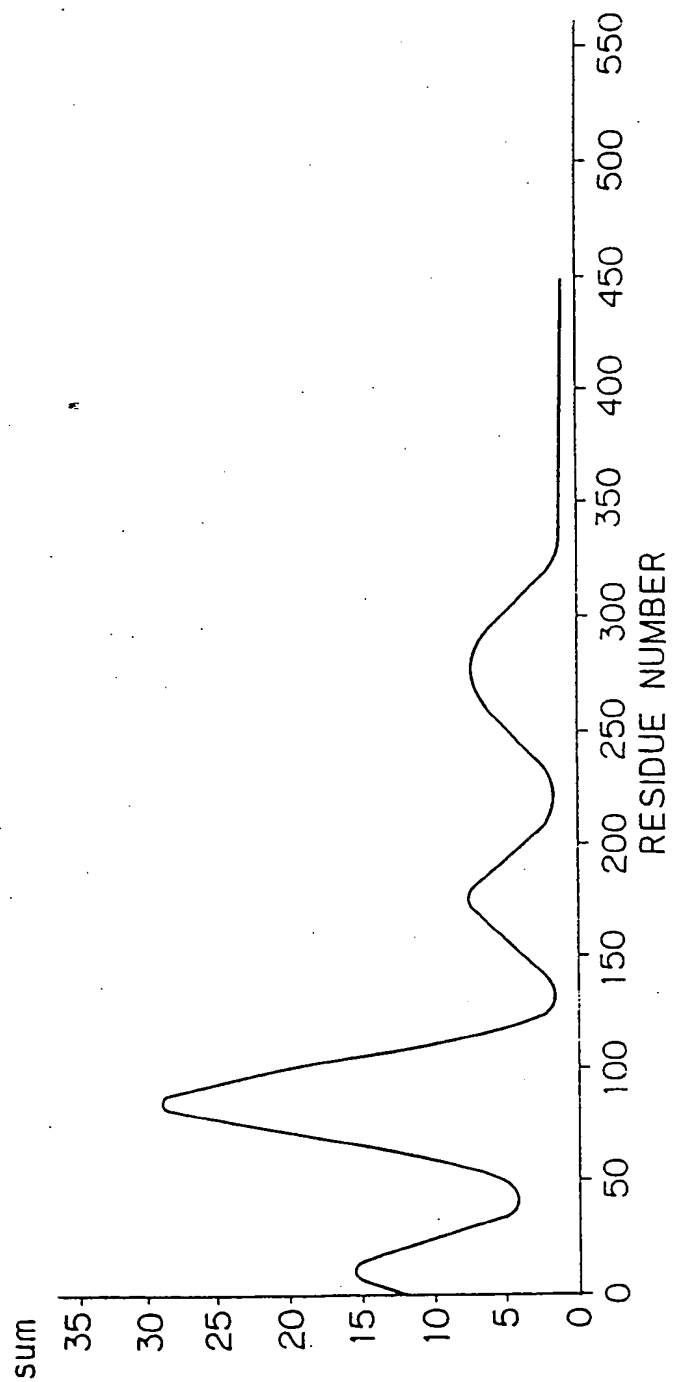


Fig. 8



PEAK AMINO ACID 11'Gly' 87'Ser' 175'Ala' 278'Lys'

Fig. 9

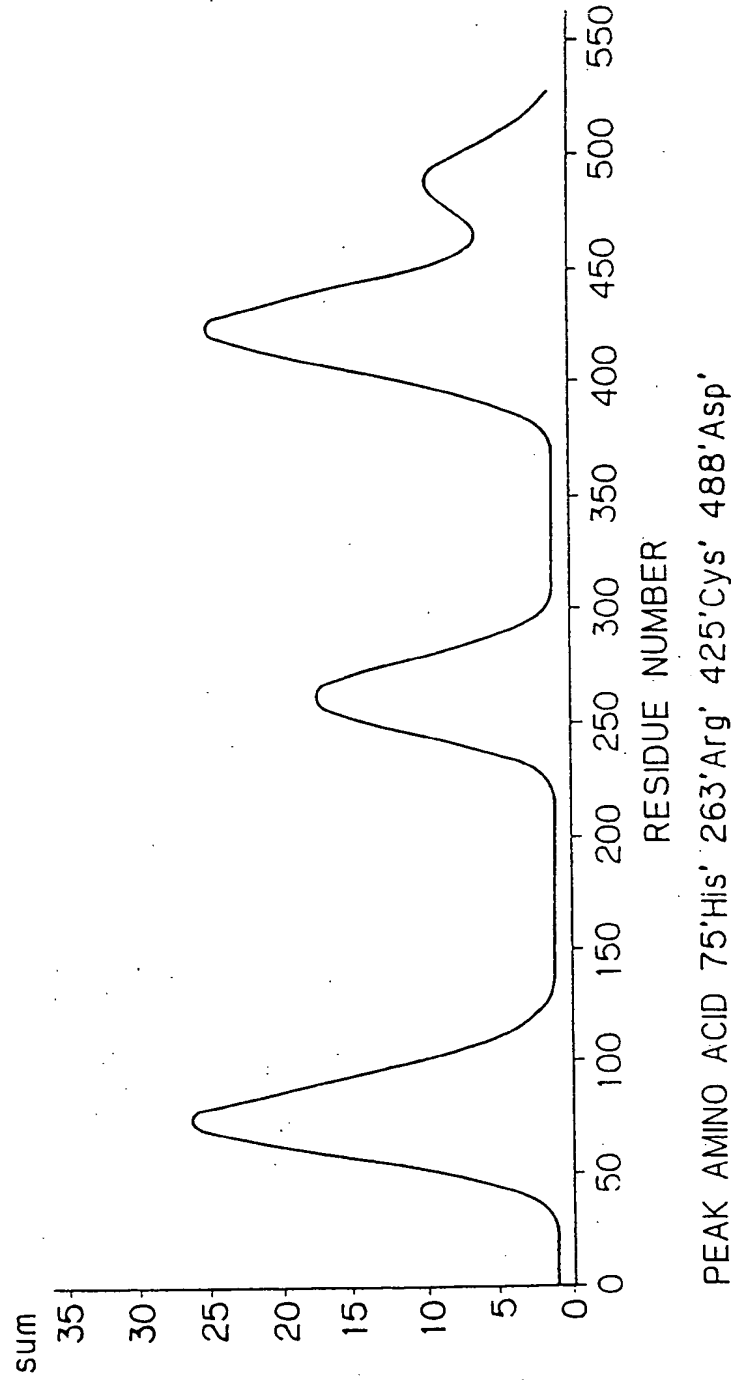
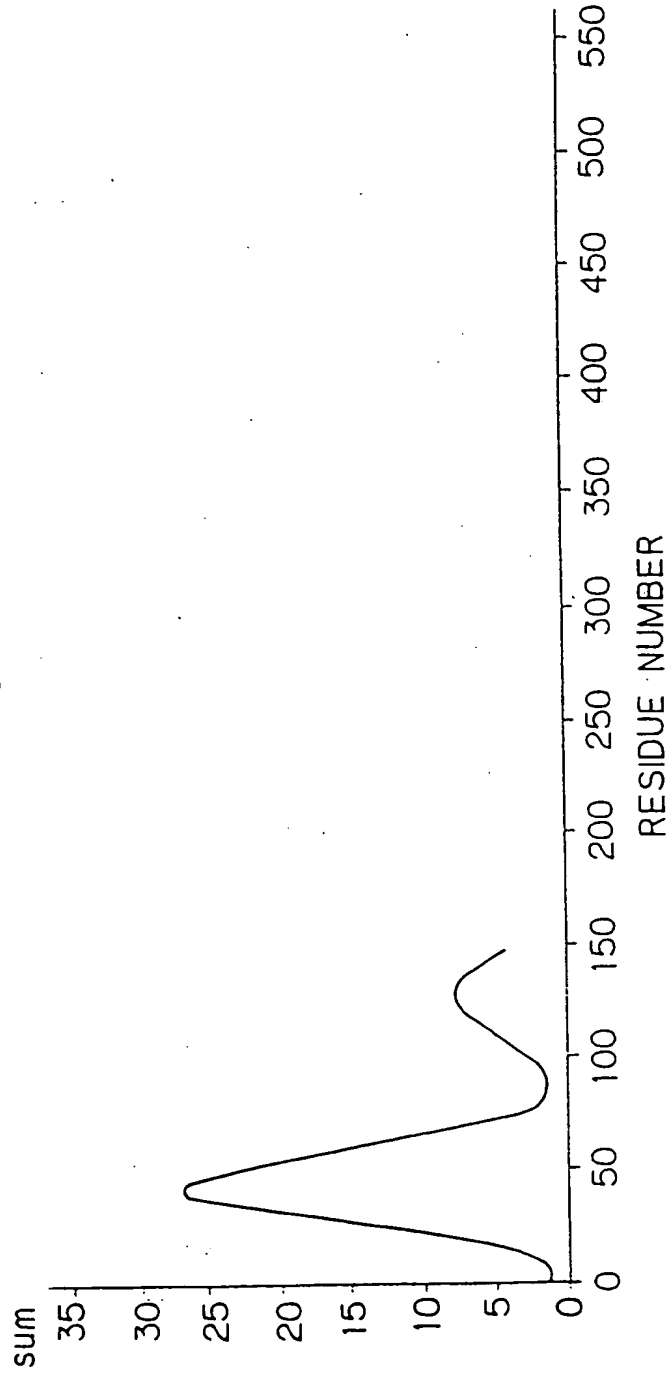


Fig. 10



PEAK AMINO ACID 42'Ser' 127'Val'

Fig. 11

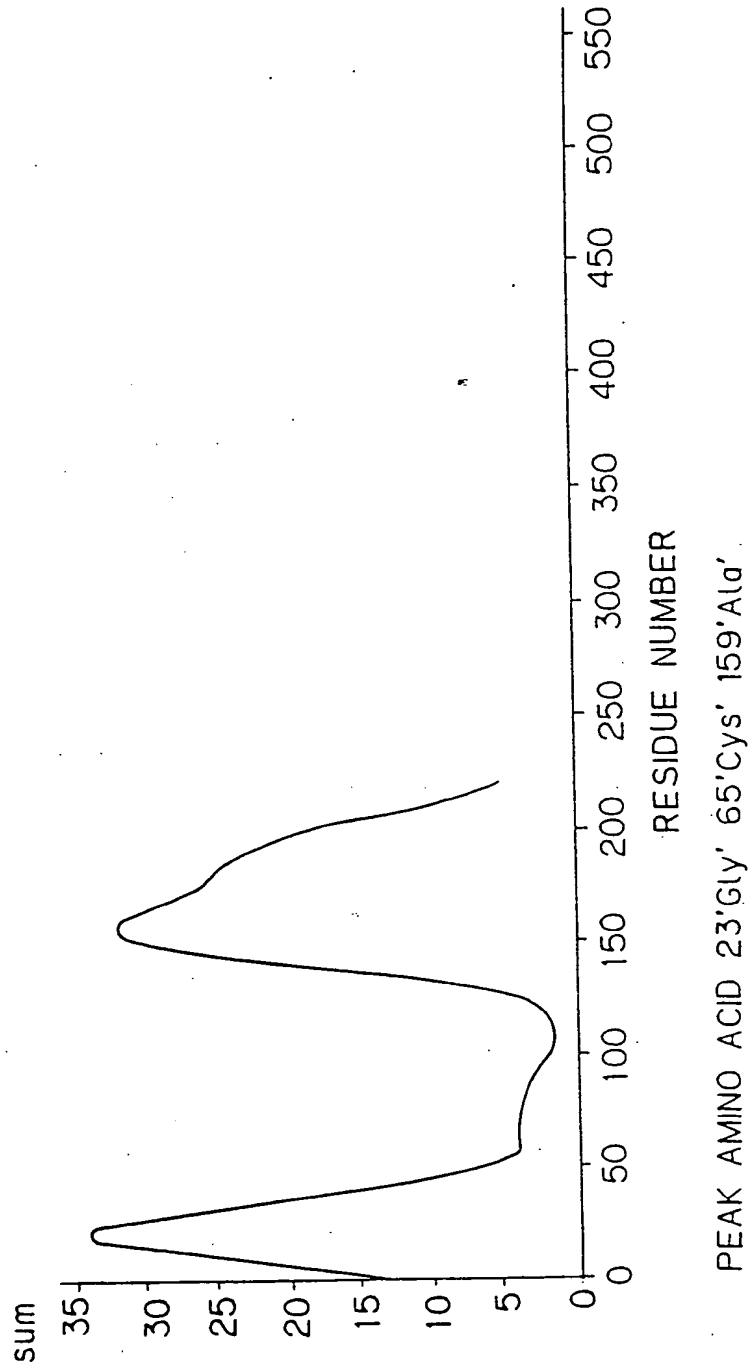
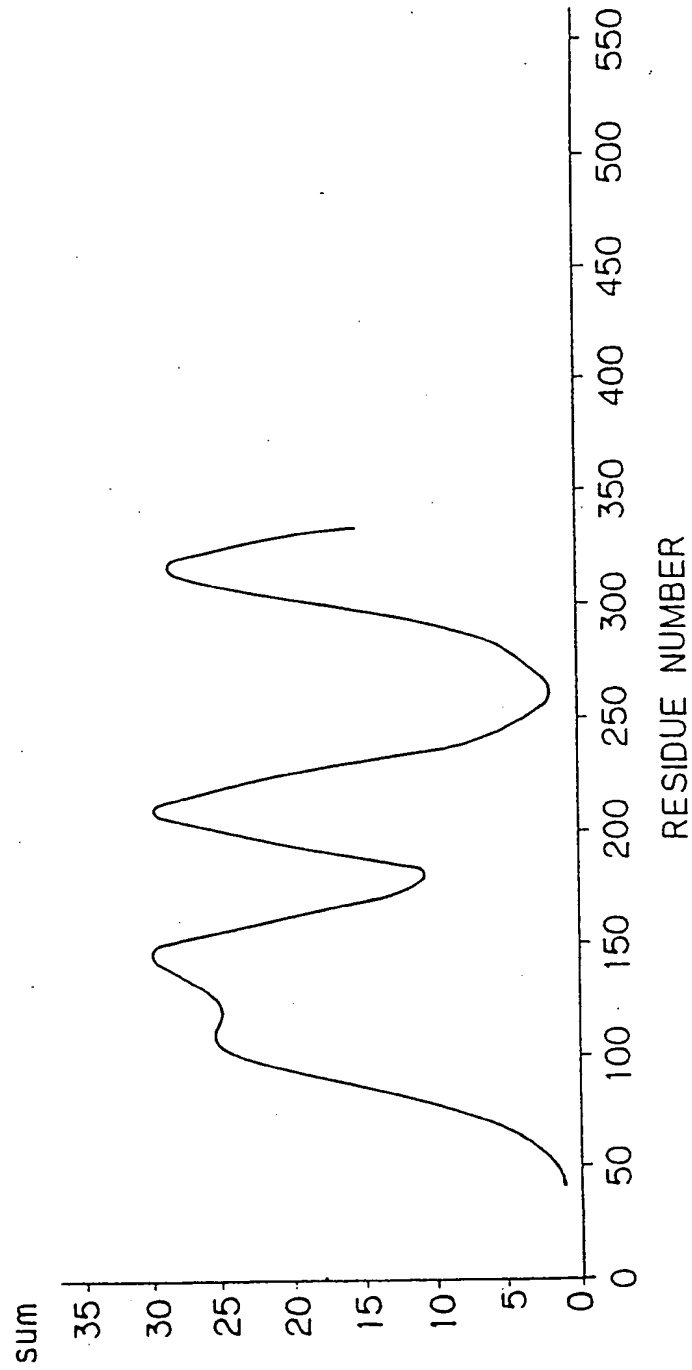


Fig. 12



PEAK AMINO ACID 110'Ala' 147'Ile' 211'Thr' 250'Phe' 318'Phe' 350'Phe'

Fig. 13

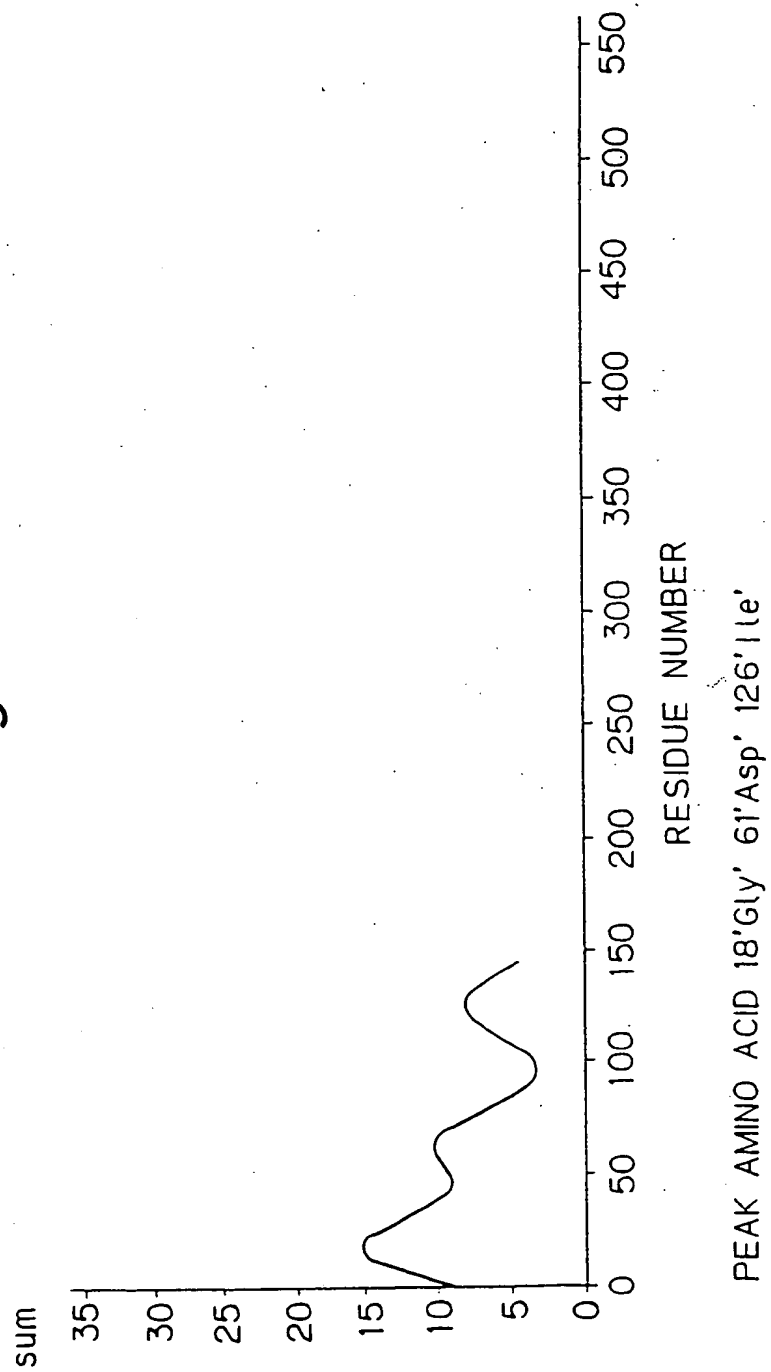


Fig. 14

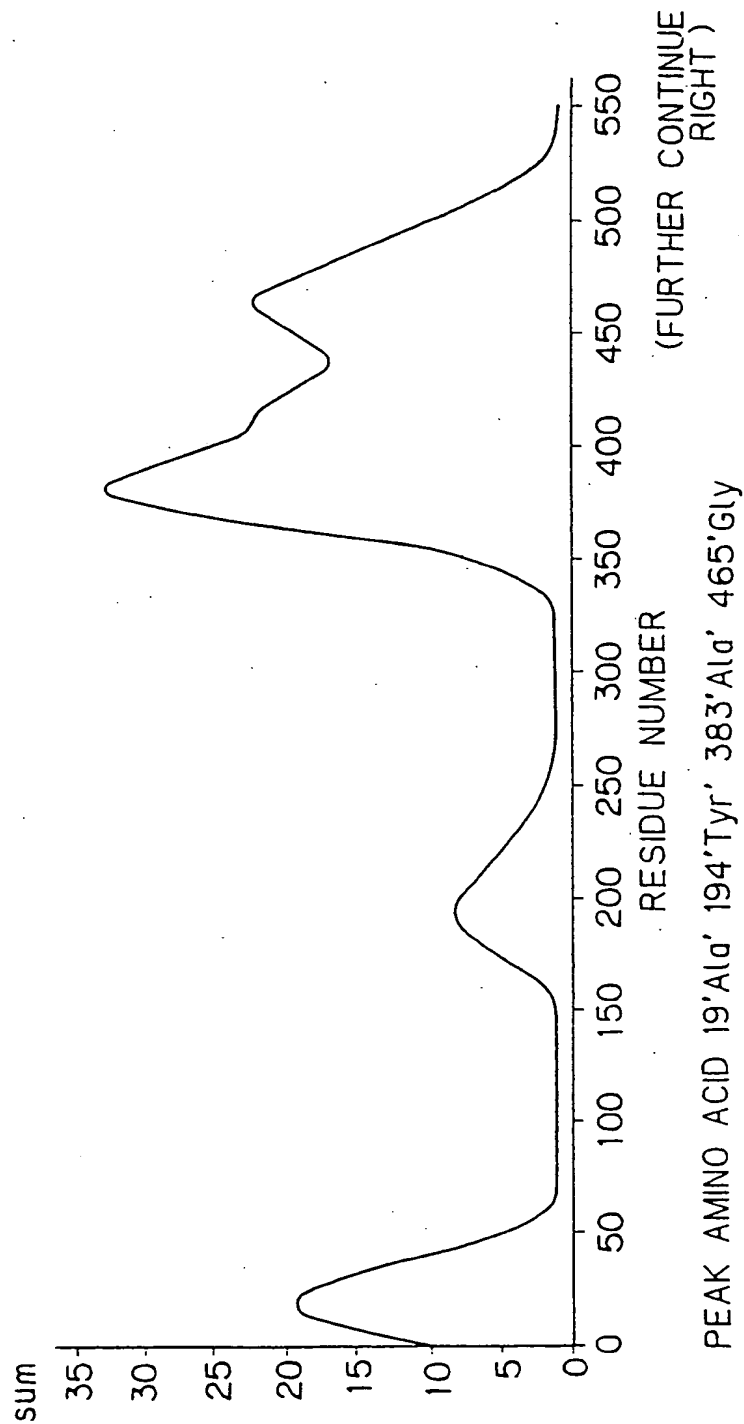
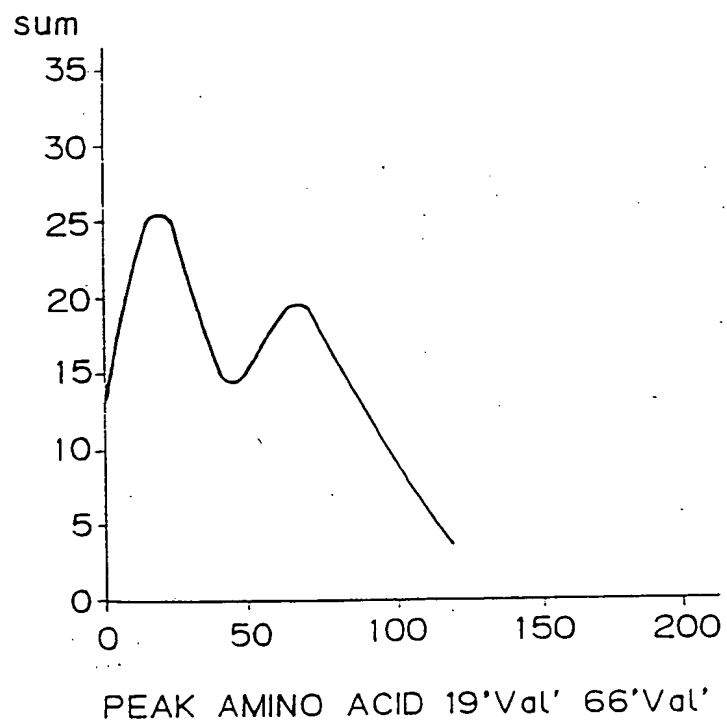


Fig. 15





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 91 31 1129

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
A	<p>PROTEIN ENGINEERING, vol. 2, no. 2, 1988, EYNHAM, OXFORD, ENGLAND GB pages 127 - 138; M.J.J.M. ZVELEBIL ET AL.: 'Analysis and prediction of the location of catalytic residues in enzymes' * page 132, left column, paragraph 2 - page 133, left column, paragraph 1 *</p>	1	G01N33/68 C07K3/00
D,A	<p>MEDICAL HYPOTHESES vol. 7, no. 8, August 1981, EDINBURGH, UK pages 981 - 983; J. BIRO: 'Comparative analysis of specificity in protein-protein interactions; Part II' * page 981, paragraph 2 - page 982, paragraph 3 * * page 992, paragraph 2 - page 993, paragraph 4 *</p>	1	<p>TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)</p> <p>G01N</p>
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 04 FEBRUARY 1992	Examiner THIELE U.H.-C.H.
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>A : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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